

JEPH LOEB • DAVID FINCH  
DANNY MIKI • STEVE FIRCHOW

ISSUE

1

OF FIVE



# ULTIMATE



# ULTIMATUM

## CHAPTER ONE “THREE KINGS”

**Jeph  
Loeb**  
**WRITER**

**David  
Finch**  
**ARTIST**

**Danny  
Miki**  
**INKER**

**Steve  
Firchow**  
**COLORIST**

**RS &  
Comicraft**  
**LETTERER**

**DAVID FINCH, DANNY MIKI & JASON KEITH: Cover**  
**ED MCGUINNESS, MARK FARMER & JASON KEITH: Variant**

**Irene  
Lee**  
**PRODUCTION**

**Sankovitch &  
Henry**  
**ASST. EDITORS**

**Ralph  
Macchio & Mark  
Paniccia**  
**SENIOR EDITORS**

**Joe  
Quesada**  
**EDITOR IN  
CHIEF**

**Dan  
Buckley**  
**PUBLISHER**

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THE BAXTER BUILDING.  
HOME OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.  
TEENAGE ADVENTURE HEROES.  
MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.  
4:12 PM. TUESDAY.

SUE...

I THINK YOU  
KNOW HOW I FEEL  
ABOUT YOU.

MAYBE I *DO*.  
OR MAYBE I *DON'T*,  
REED RICHARDS.

THE WAY  
I *ALWAYS*  
HAVE.  
HOW  
I WISH WE  
COULD SHARE  
THE REST OF  
OUR LIVES  
TOGETHER.

REED.  
ARE YOU ABOUT  
TO DO WHAT  
I *THINK* YOU'RE  
ABOUT TO  
DO...?

HEY, *HERB*.  
WHY DON'TCHA MAKE  
YERSELF USEFUL  
AND GET ME A FRIED  
BOLOGNA SANDWICH?  
OR TEN OF 'EM.

I WOULD, *BEN*,  
BUT THEN WHO  
WOULD SPOT  
YOU?

OKAY, *ONE*,  
I THINK IT'S UBER-CREEPY  
THAT YOU CALL ME "*BEN*."  
AND *TWO*, IT'S ONLY A  
COUPLA TONS I GOT  
ON HERE.

WHAT'S  
GONNA  
HAPPEN?

HOW MANY TIMES ARE  
WE GOING TO HAVE  
THIS CONVERSATION,  
*DAD*?

AS MANY TIMES AS IT  
TAKES TO GET YOU OFF  
YOUR DUFF AND MAKE  
SOMETHING OUT  
OF YOUR LIFE.

AT YOUR AGE,  
*JOHNNY*, YOUR  
SISTER *SUSAN*  
WAS ALREADY --

-- STOP  
COMPARING ME  
TO SUE!

LET'S FACE IT.  
YOU DON'T *GET* ME.  
AND YOU *NEVER*  
WILL.



TONY STARK'S MANSION.  
HOME BASE FOR THE ULTIMATES.  
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES.  
MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.  
4:12 PM. TUESDAY.

STEVE...

I WONDER HOW  
PRACTICAL IT WOULD  
BE TO TAKE A **BATH**  
IN A MARTINI.

MAYBE WE  
SHOULD GO ON PATROL,  
INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR  
THE NEXT DISASTER TO  
HIT US, **TONY**.

YOU  
KNOW WHAT  
I THINK?

YOU NEED  
TO LOOSEN UP.  
HAVE A DRINK.

AND STOP  
THINKING ABOUT  
ANOTHER MAN'S  
WIFE...

BETTER. VERILY,  
THY SKILLS HAVE  
IMPROVED TENFOLD,  
**VALKYRIE**.

YOU  
SHOULD SEE ME  
IN BED, **THOR**.  
VERY VERILY.

YOU SURE  
ABOUT THIS, **HANK**?  
AFTER ALL THE DAMAGE  
**ULTRON** DID, YOU STILL  
WANT TO DRESS UP  
LIKE HIM?

I ADMIT IT'S...  
CONTROVERSIAL.  
BUT THE DESIGNS IN  
THIS **YELLOWJACKET**  
UNIFORM ARE  
AMAZING.

AND  
MAYBE I CAN  
MAKE UP FOR WHAT  
THAT MONSTER  
DID...

UNBELIEVABLE.  
YOU'RE SPEAKING  
TO THIS LOON, **JAN**?  
HELLO. HE SHOT  
YOU WITH **ANT  
SPRAY**.

THAT'S  
WEIRD EVEN  
BY **MY**  
STANDARDS.

BUTT  
OUT OF THIS,  
**HAWKEYE**.

BITE ME,  
**FREAK**.



THE L TRAIN. ONBOARD  
WITH PETER PARKER.  
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.  
MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.  
4:12 PM. TUESDAY.

PETER...?

AFTER WE  
HOOK UP WITH  
JOHNNY, WHAT'S  
THE GAME  
PLAN?

I FIGURE  
THE HUMAN TORCH  
WILL GET US INTO  
SOME HOT SPOT,  
KITTY.

YOU DID  
NOT JUST SAY  
"HOT SPOT" AND  
TORCH IN THE SAME  
SENTENCE.

YEAH.  
HE DID.

I GOT  
AN IDEA...

DOES IT  
INVOLVE GOING TO SEE  
"THE DARK KNIGHT"  
FOR THE NINTH TIME,  
KONG?

...MAYBE...

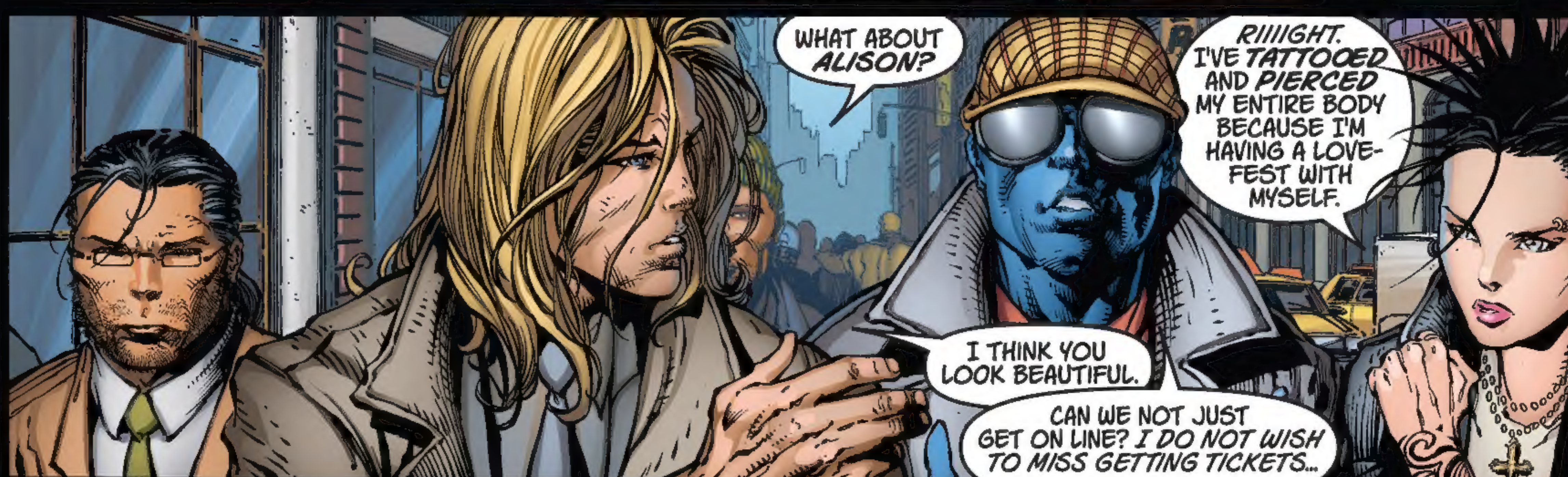
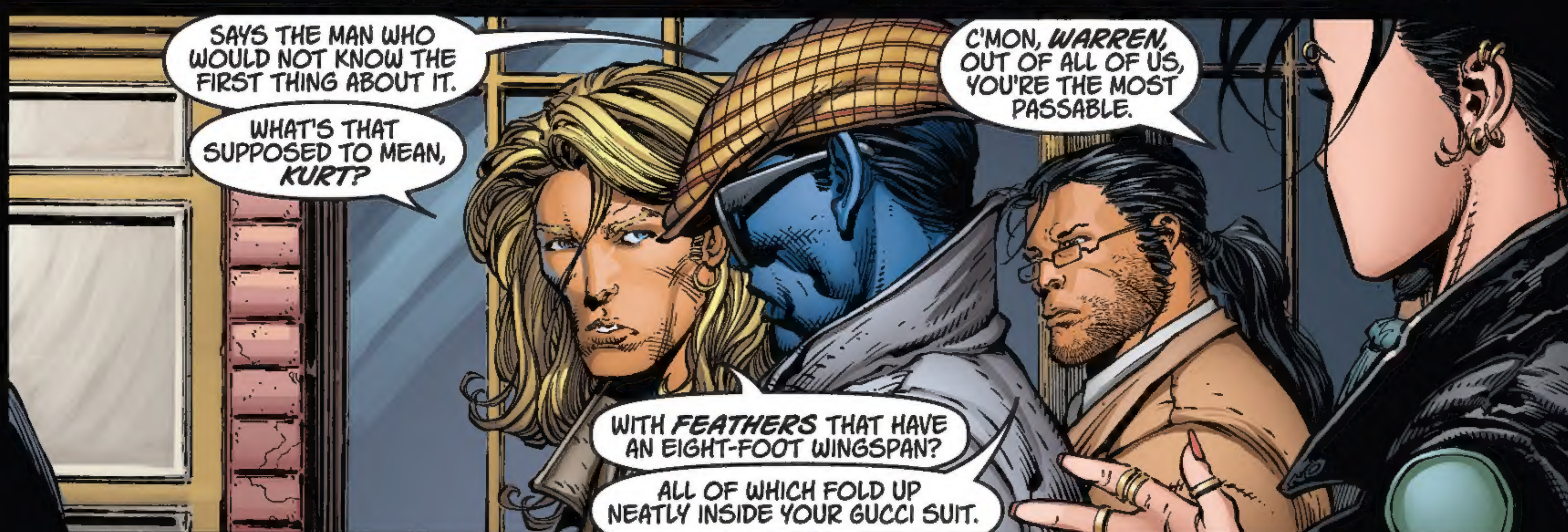
YOU  
DOING OKAY,  
GWEN?

YES.  
NO. I DON'T  
KNOW.

WITH  
EVERYTHING  
THAT'S HAPPENED  
TO ME, MARY  
JANE...

WELL,  
IT'S NOT LIKE  
IT COULD GET  
ANY WORSE,  
RIGHT?











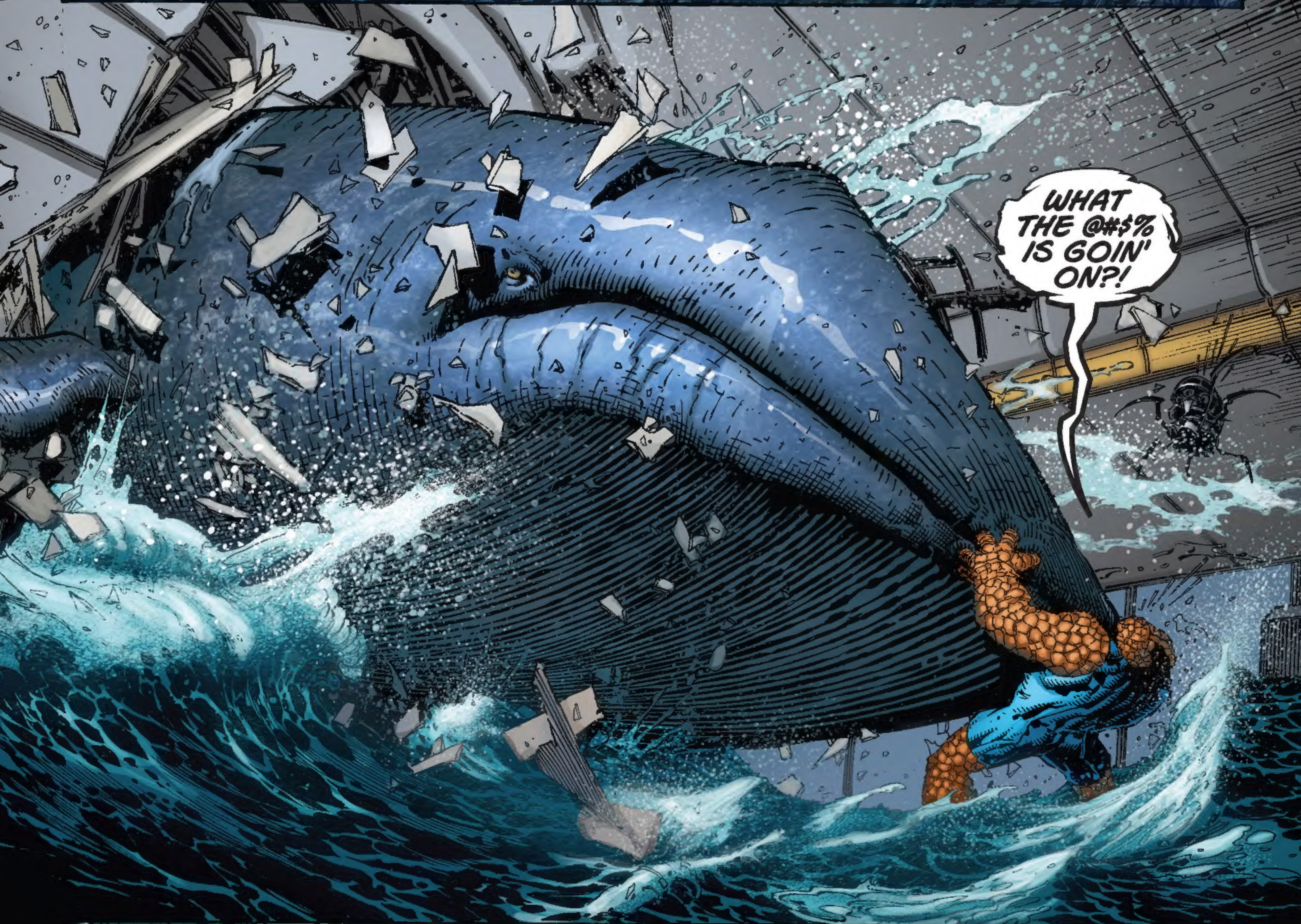
4:13PM



OMIGOD.







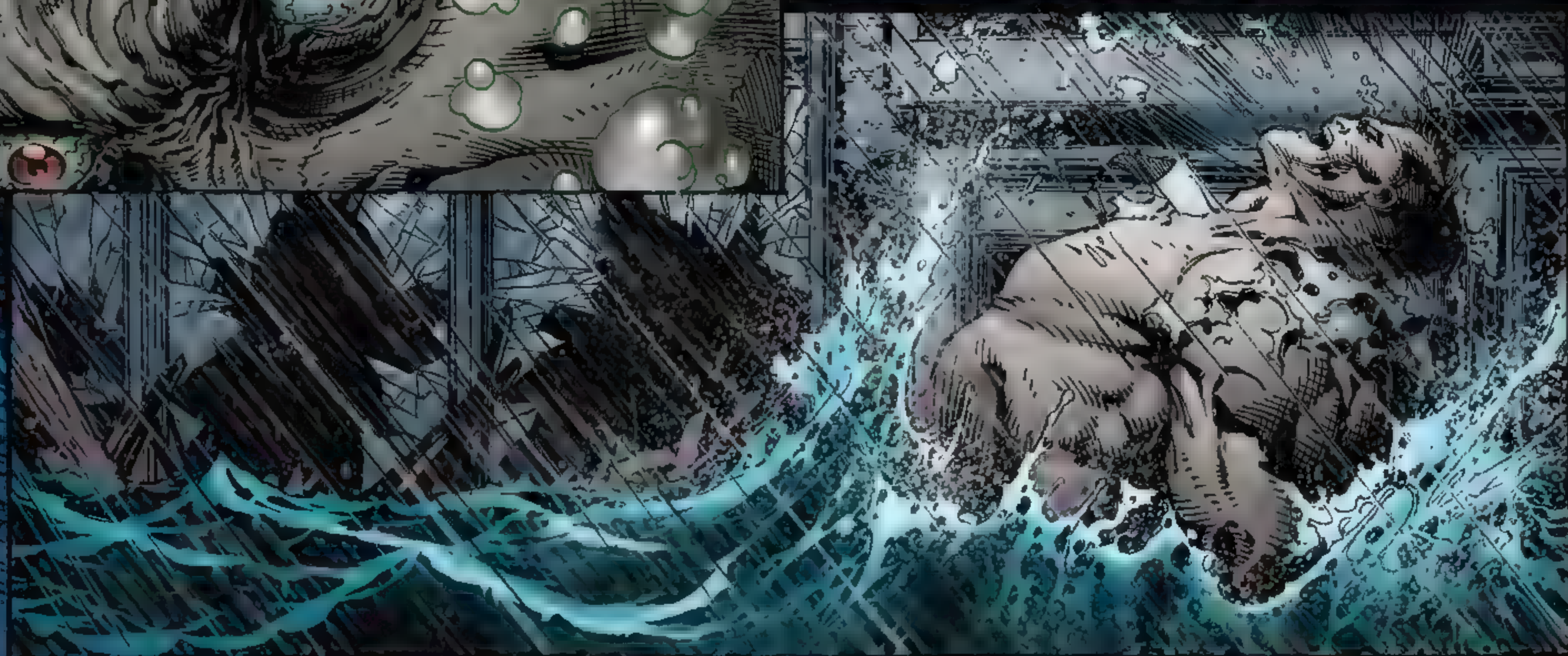
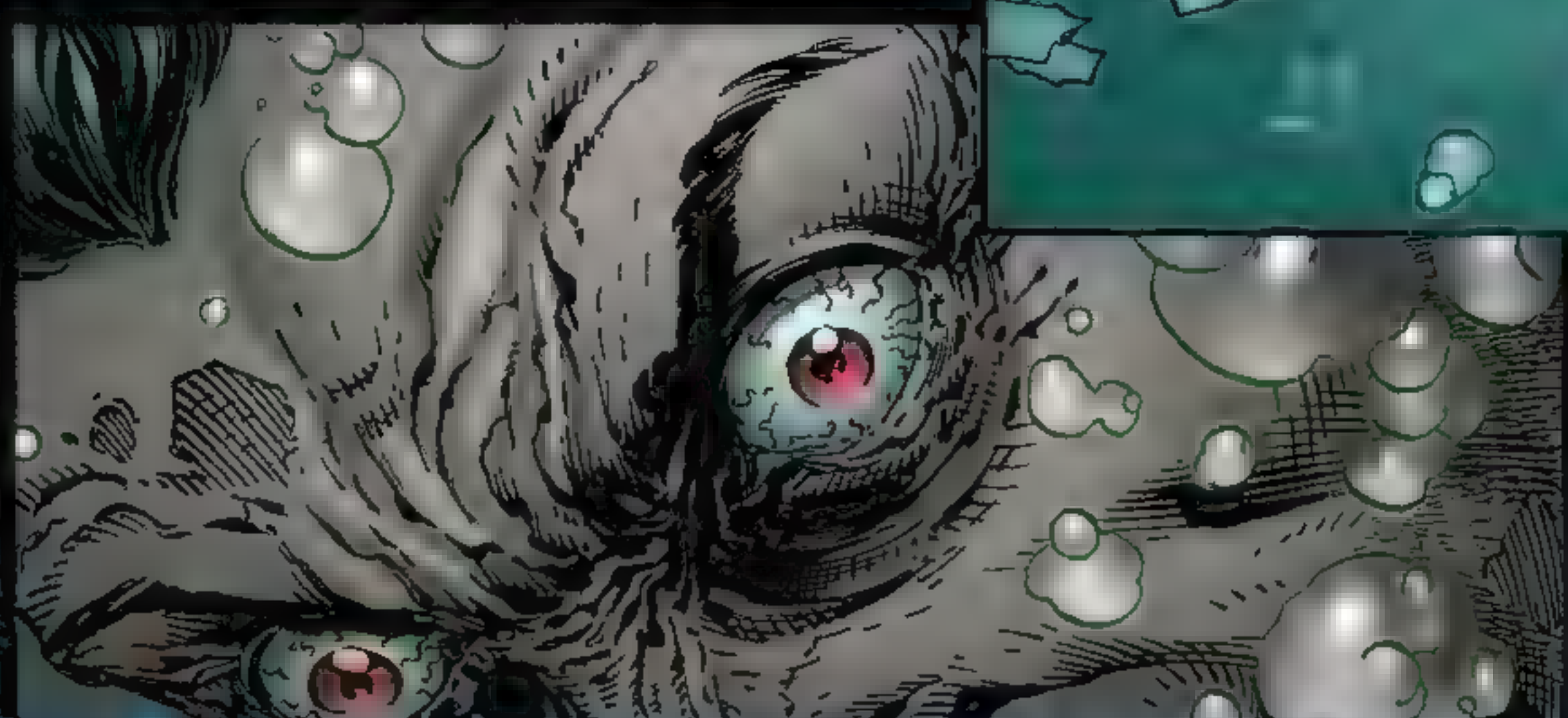




**JAN!**



MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.  
DR. BRUCE BANNER.  
AKA THE HULK.  
4:14PM. TUESDAY.



WHY IS BIG  
CLOCK THING  
WATCHING  
HULK?!

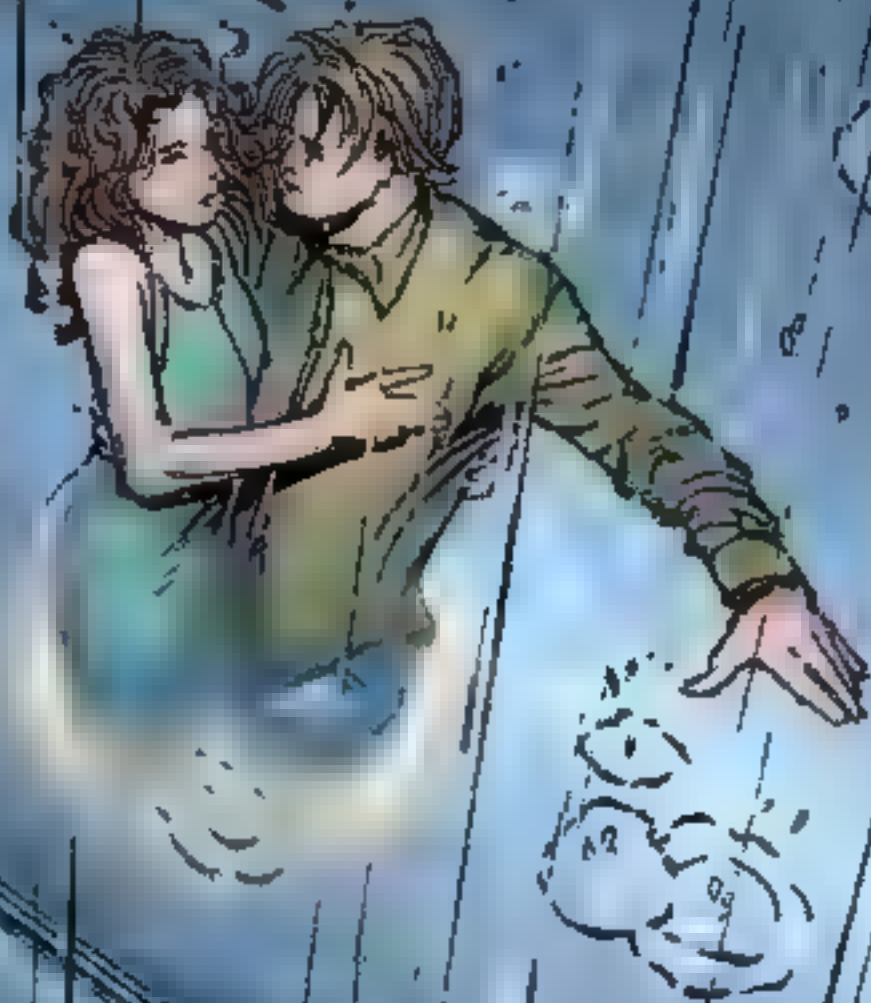




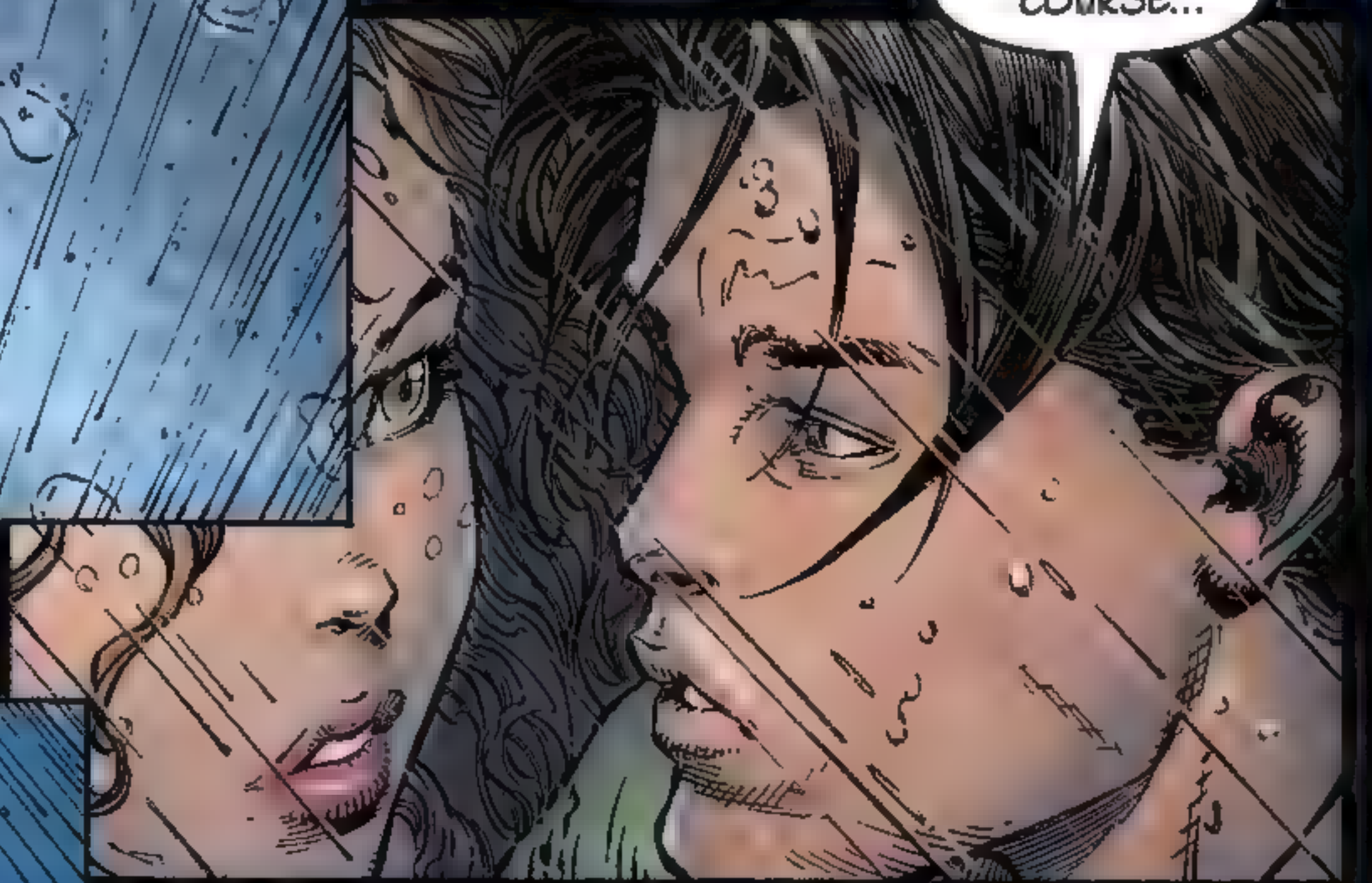
KITTY. WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! SOMEBODY MIGHT SEE ME UP HERE.

SOMEHOW I THINK EVERYONE ON THE TRAIN HAS WETTING THEMSELVES MORE ON THEIR MIND.

BESIDES, HALF OF NEW YORK IS UNDERWATER. WHO THE HELL CARES?!

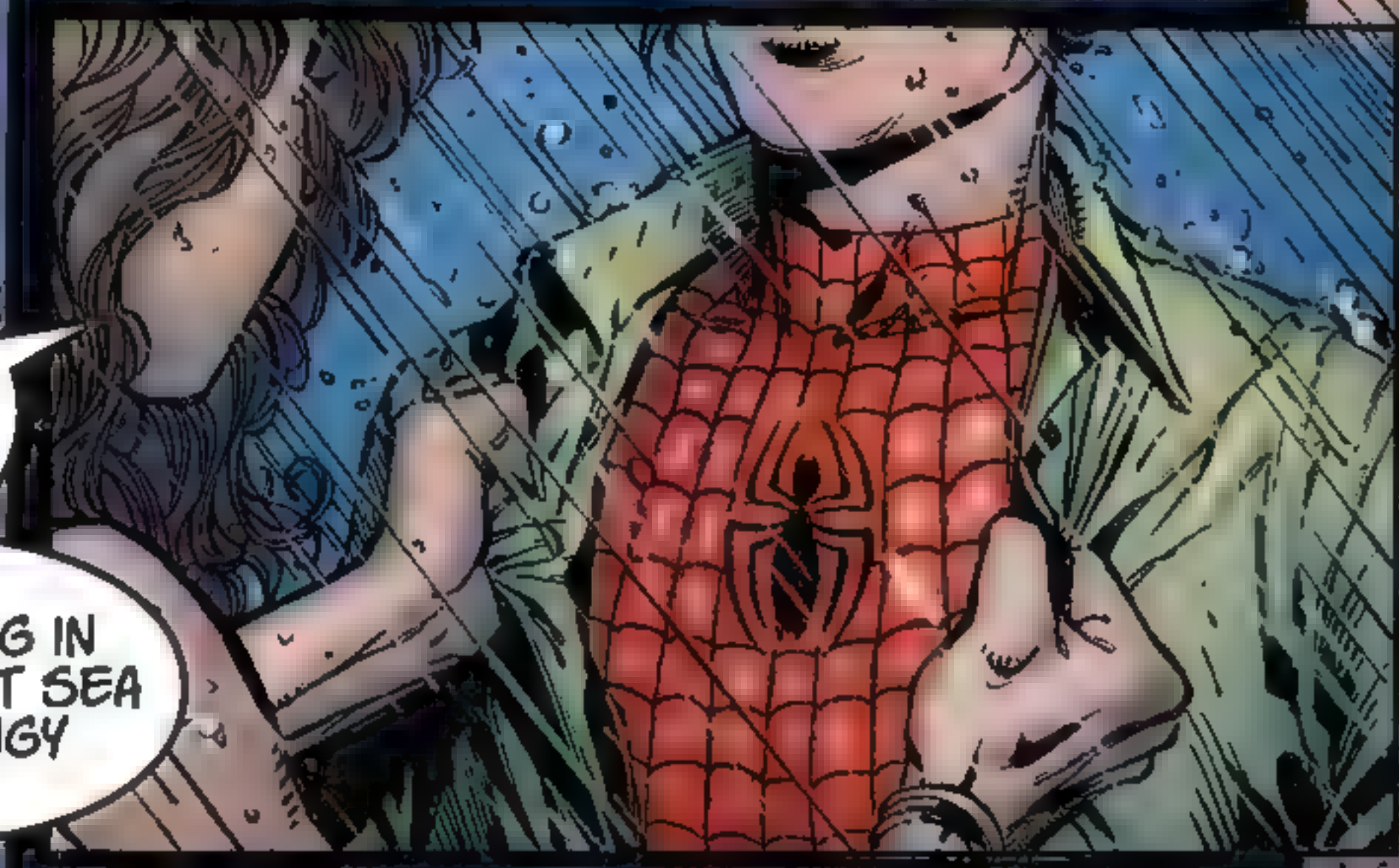


YOU'RE RIGHT... 'COURSE...

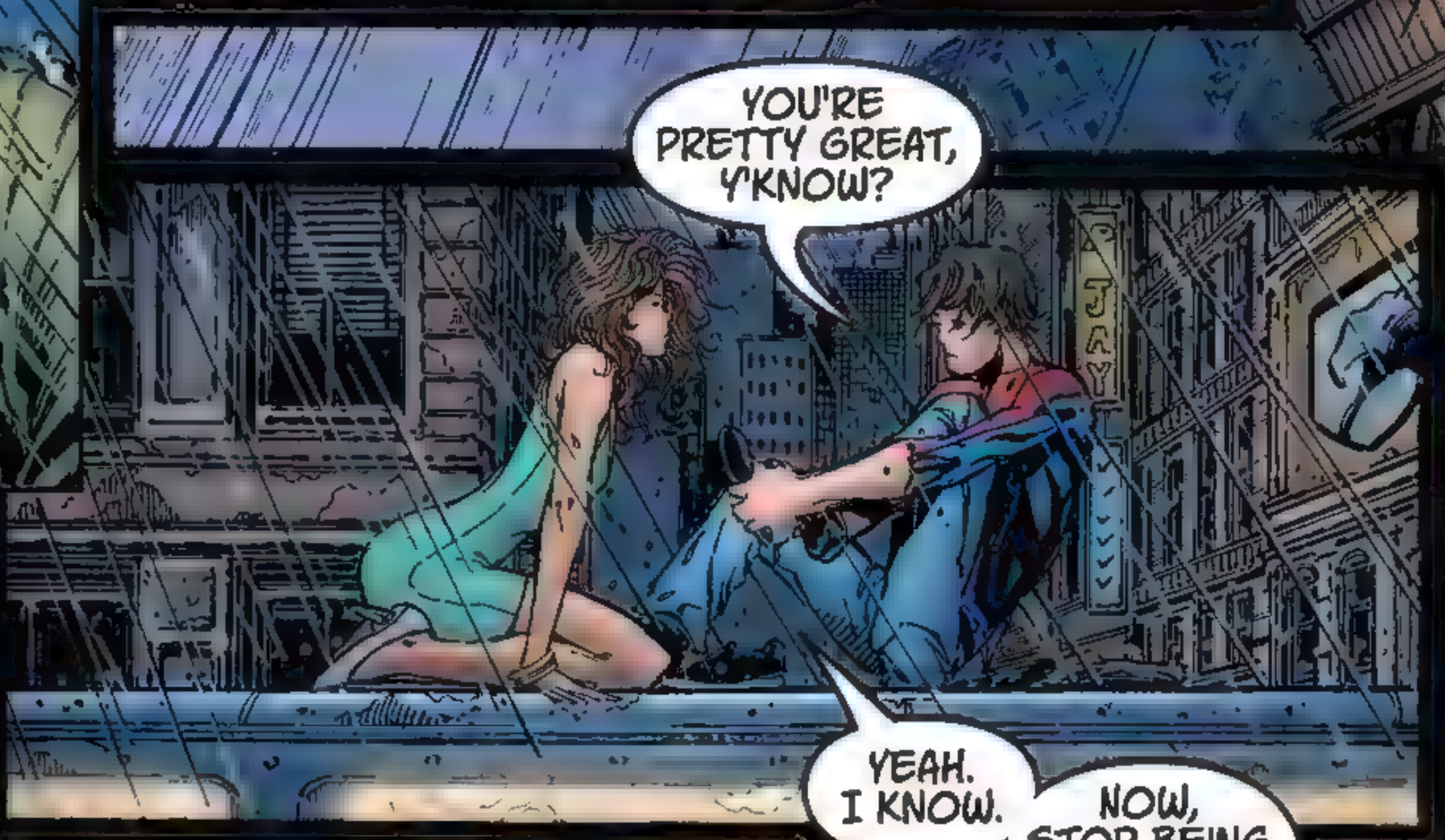


PEOPLE NEED HELP. GO DO THE THING THAT YOU DO.

I'LL LOOK AFTER THE GANG IN CASE SOME GIANT SEA MONSTER THINGY POPS UP.



YOU'RE PRETTY GREAT, Y'KNOW?



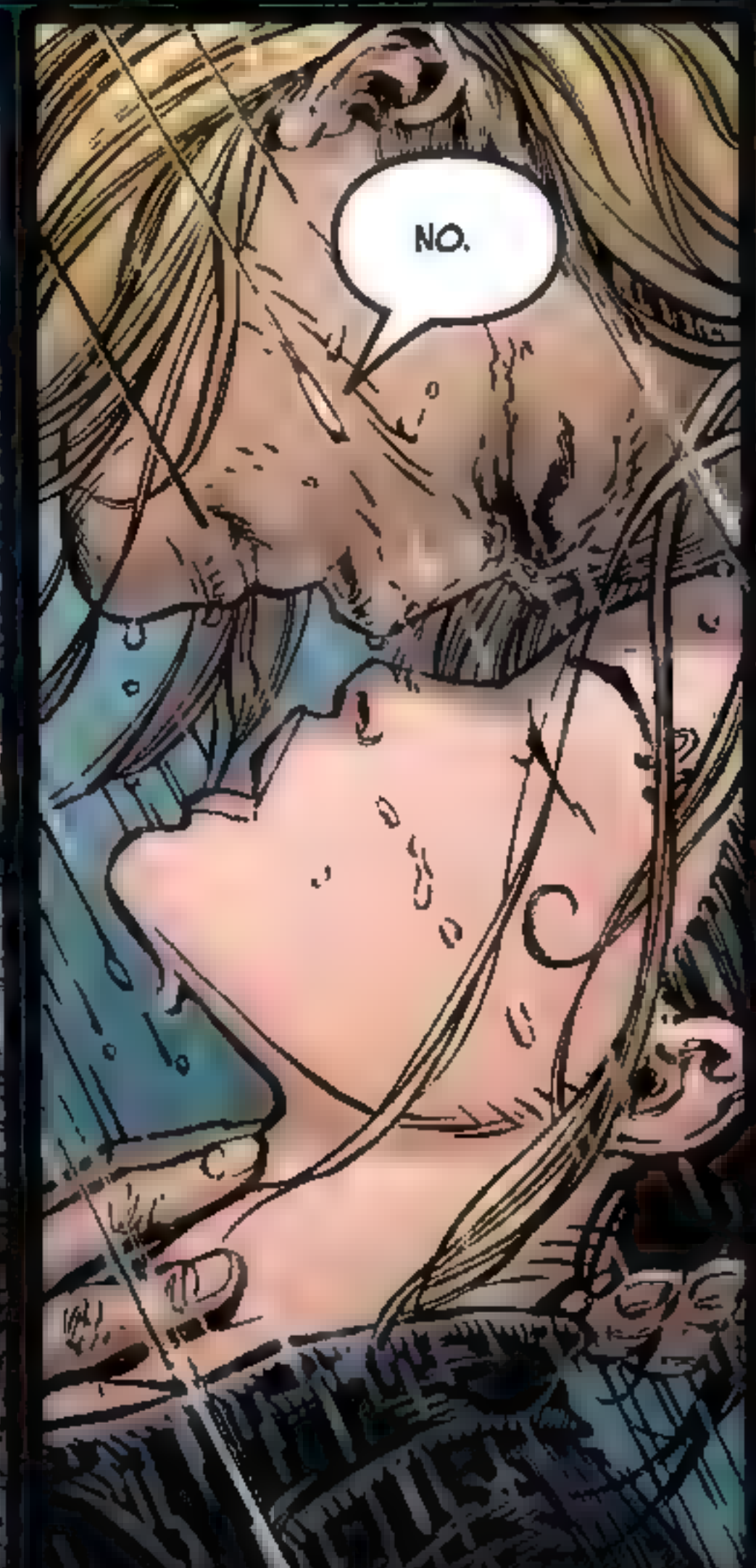
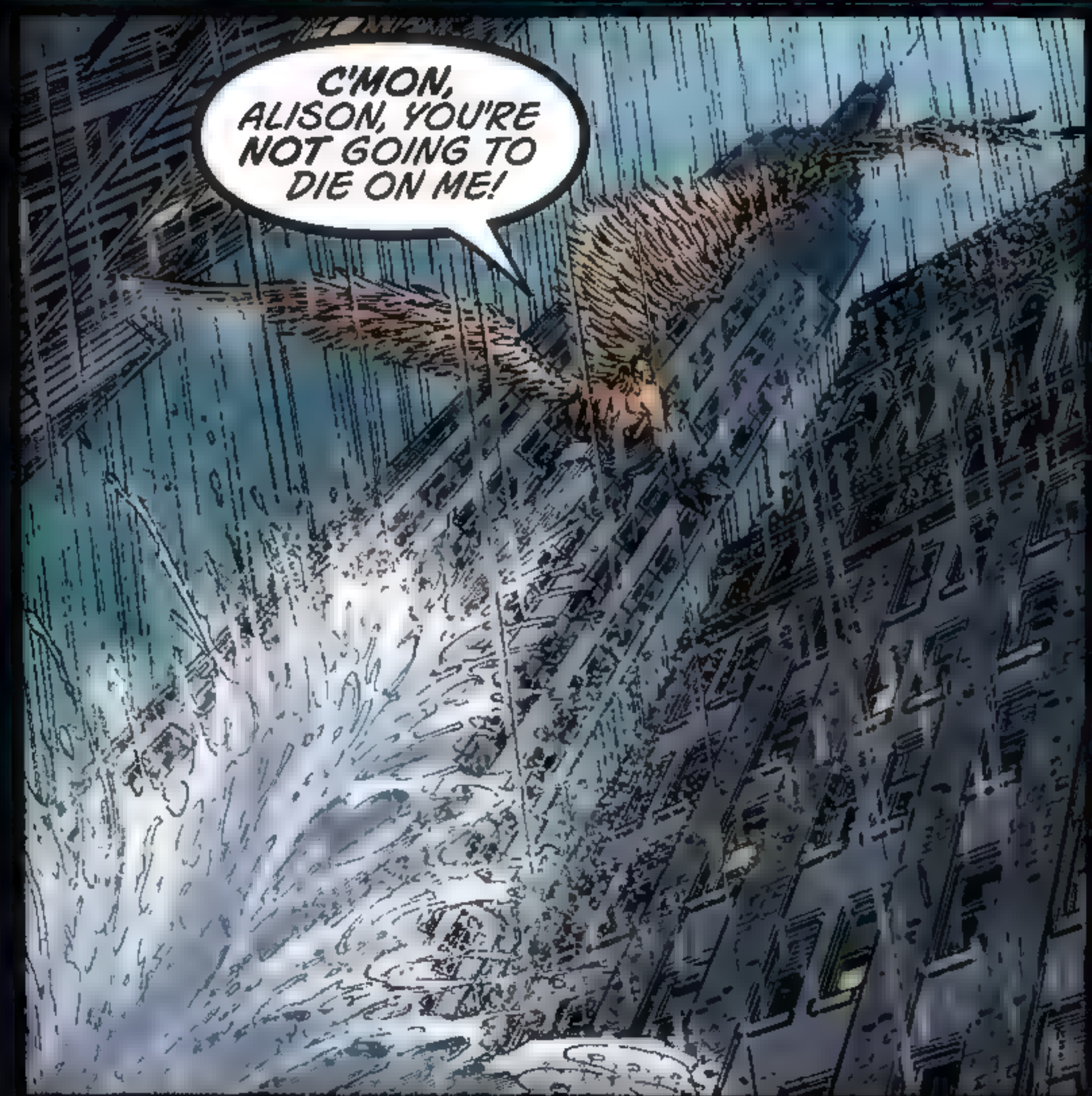
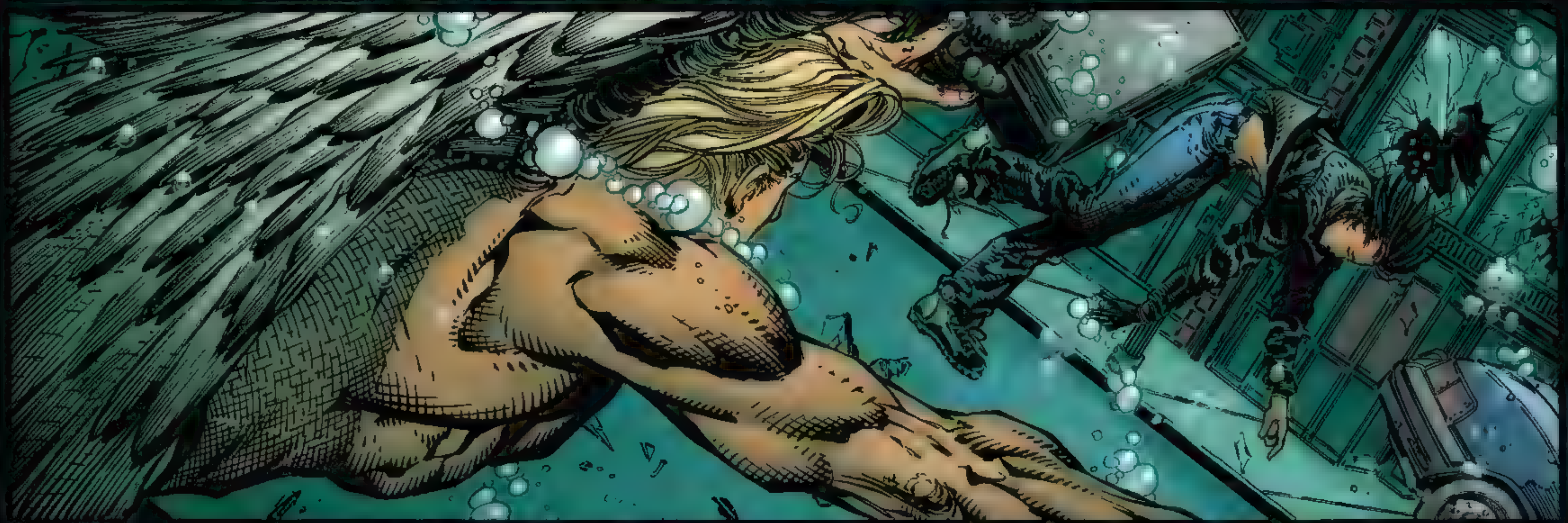
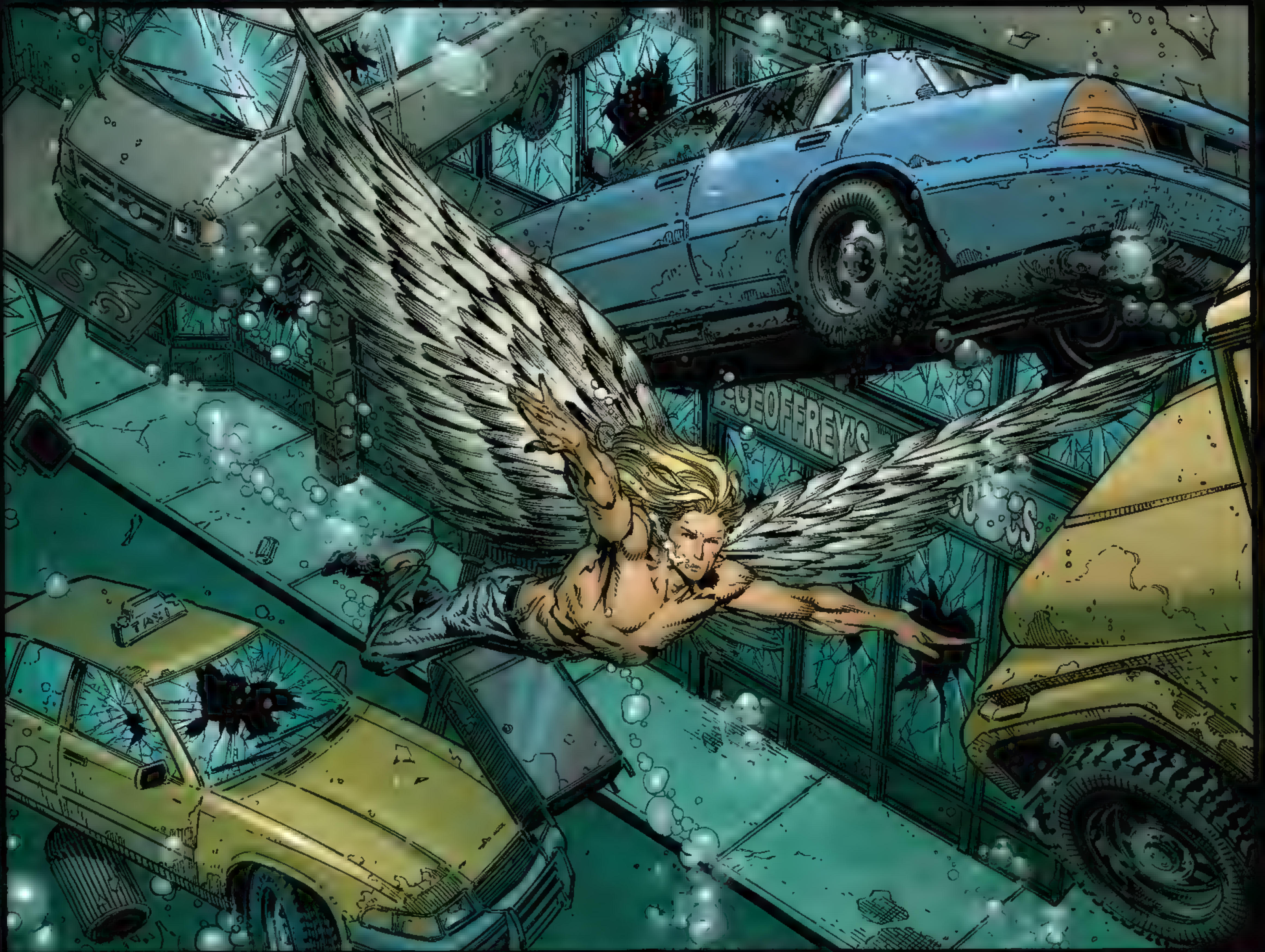
YEAH. I KNOW.

NOW, STOP BEING ALL CUTE AND GO!

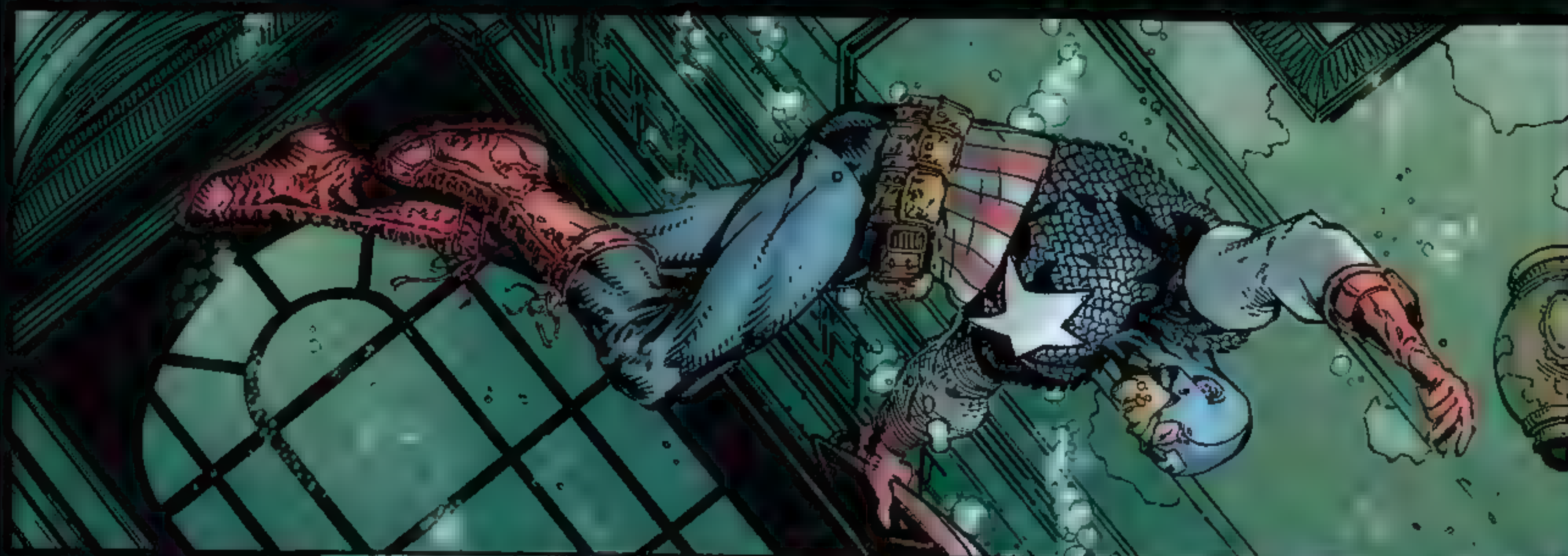
LIKE I COULD HANDLE THIS...?!



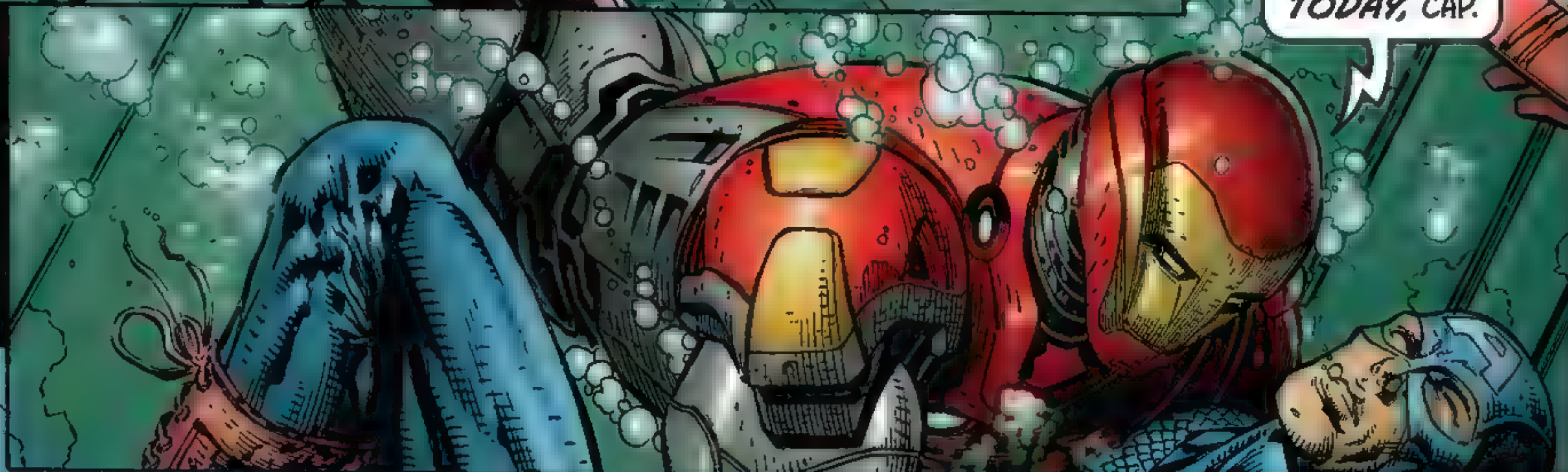








YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO DIE  
TODAY, CAP.



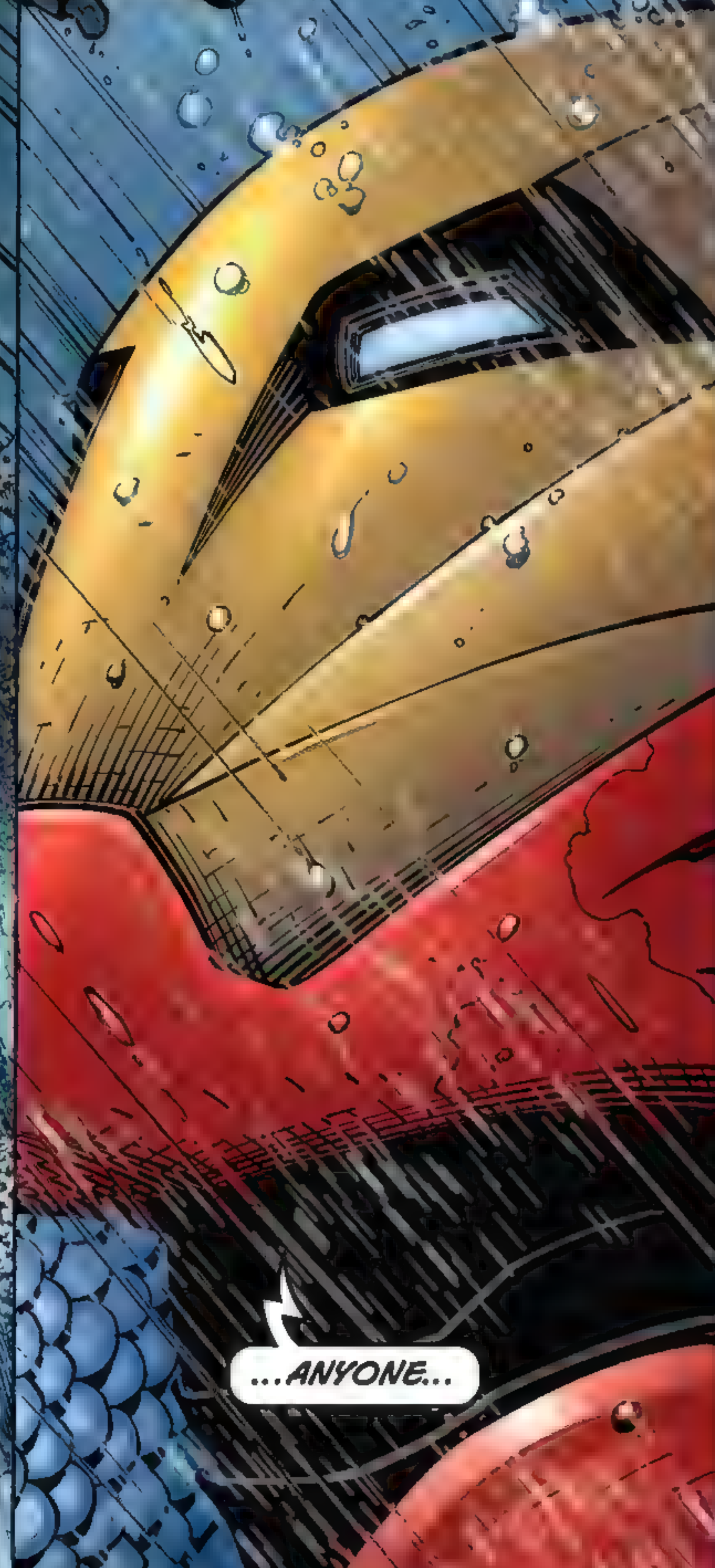
KOFF-KOFF  
WHERE ARE THE  
REST OF US? WHO  
MADE IT OUT?

THOR?  
HAWKEYE?  
WASP?



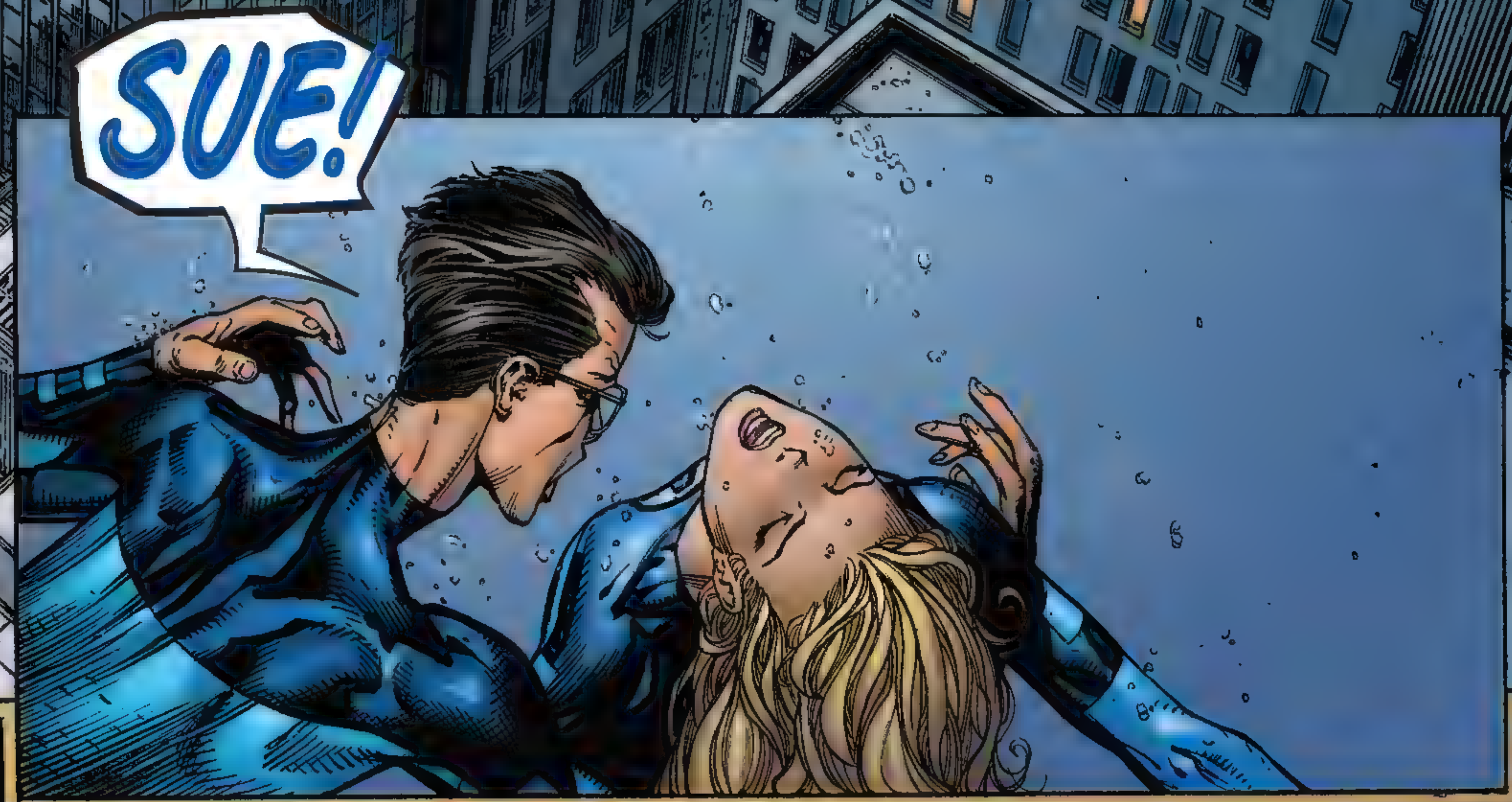
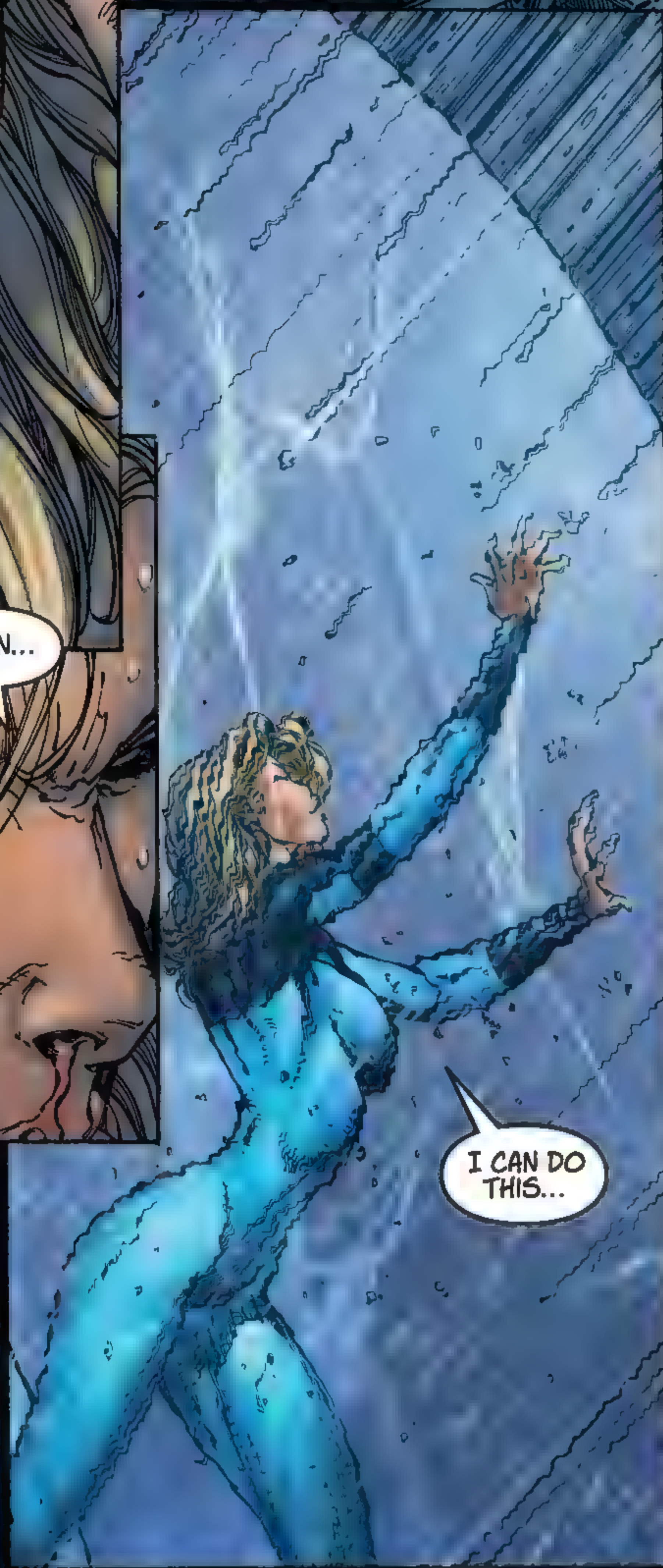
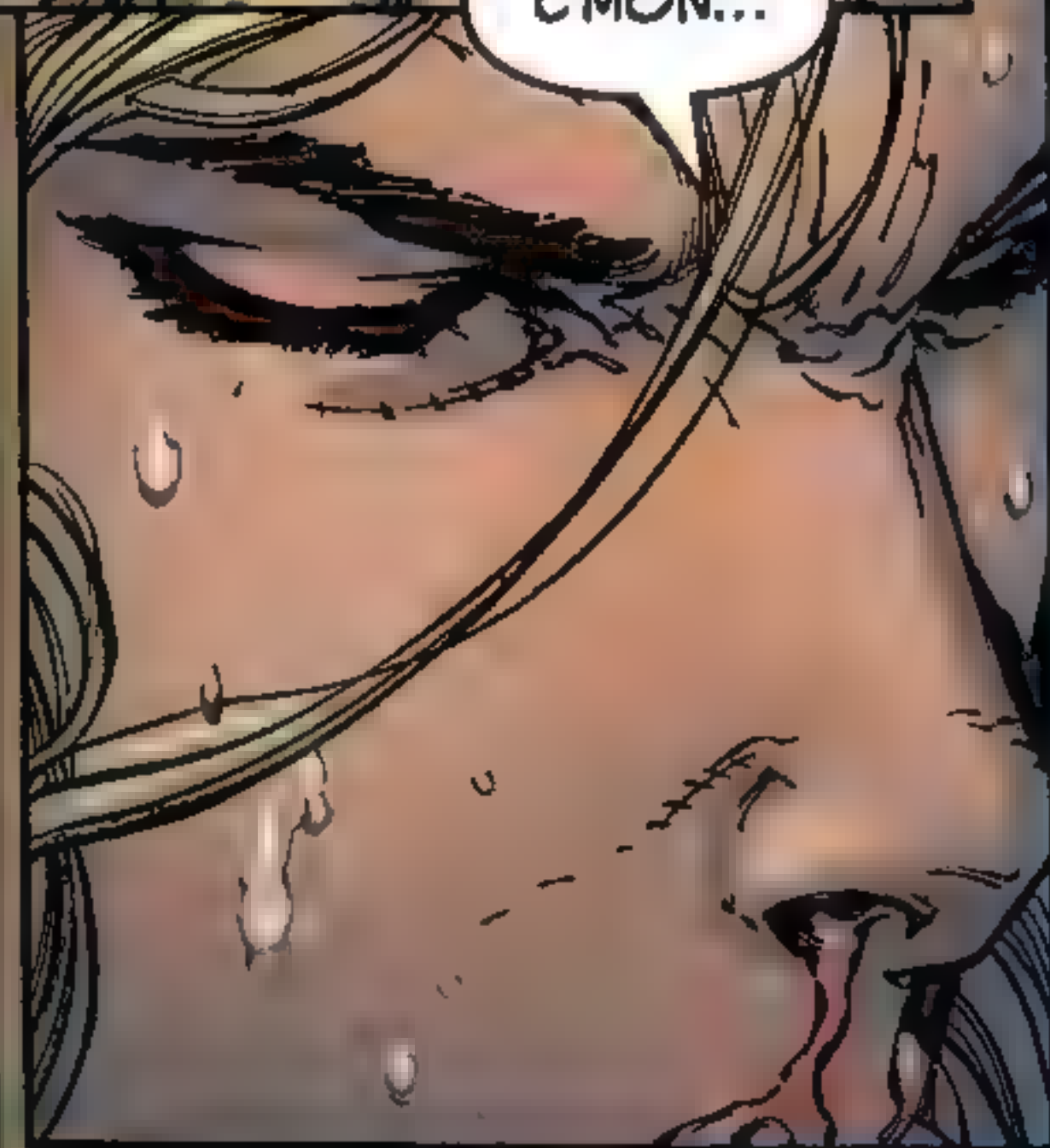
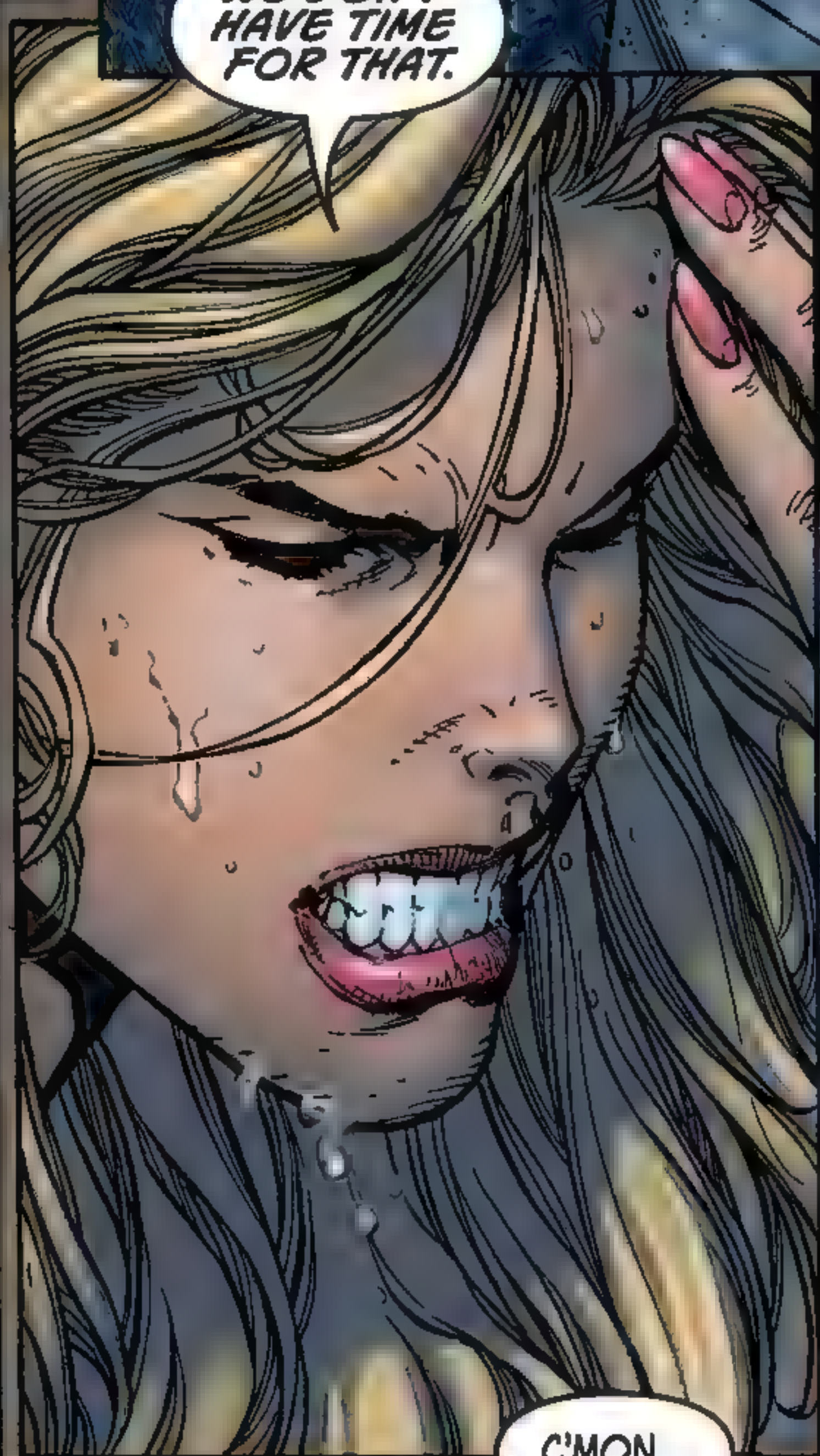
I DON'T KNOW.  
IT ALL HAPPENED  
SO FAST.

SO MANY...  
BODIES...HARD  
TO TELL WHERE  
ANYONE IS...



...ANYONE...









HEY. CAN YOU  
TELL ME WHAT THE  
HELL IS GOING ON  
IN TWENTY-FIVE  
WORDS OR  
LESS?

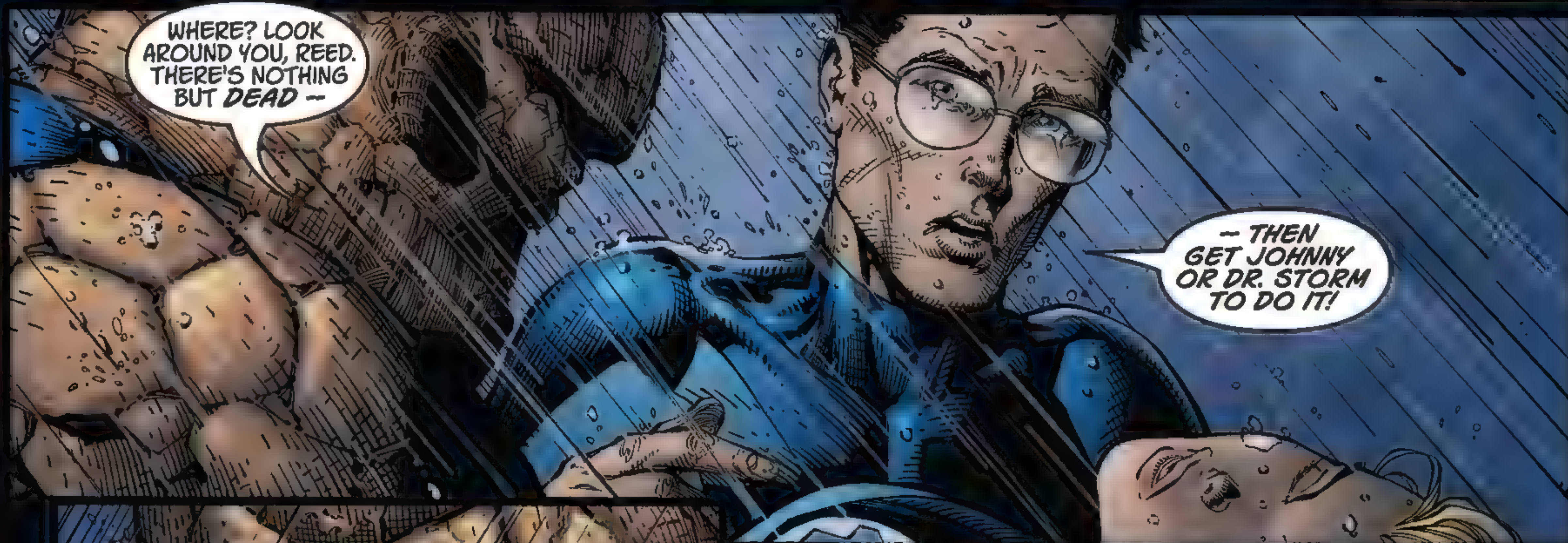
I DON'T  
KNOW!

YA DID IT  
IN *THREE*  
DIDN'T THINK  
YA HAD IT  
IN YA.

SUE. SHE...  
SHE PUSHED HERSELF  
LIKE NEVER BEFORE --  
SHOVING THE WATER BACK  
INTO THE OCEAN.

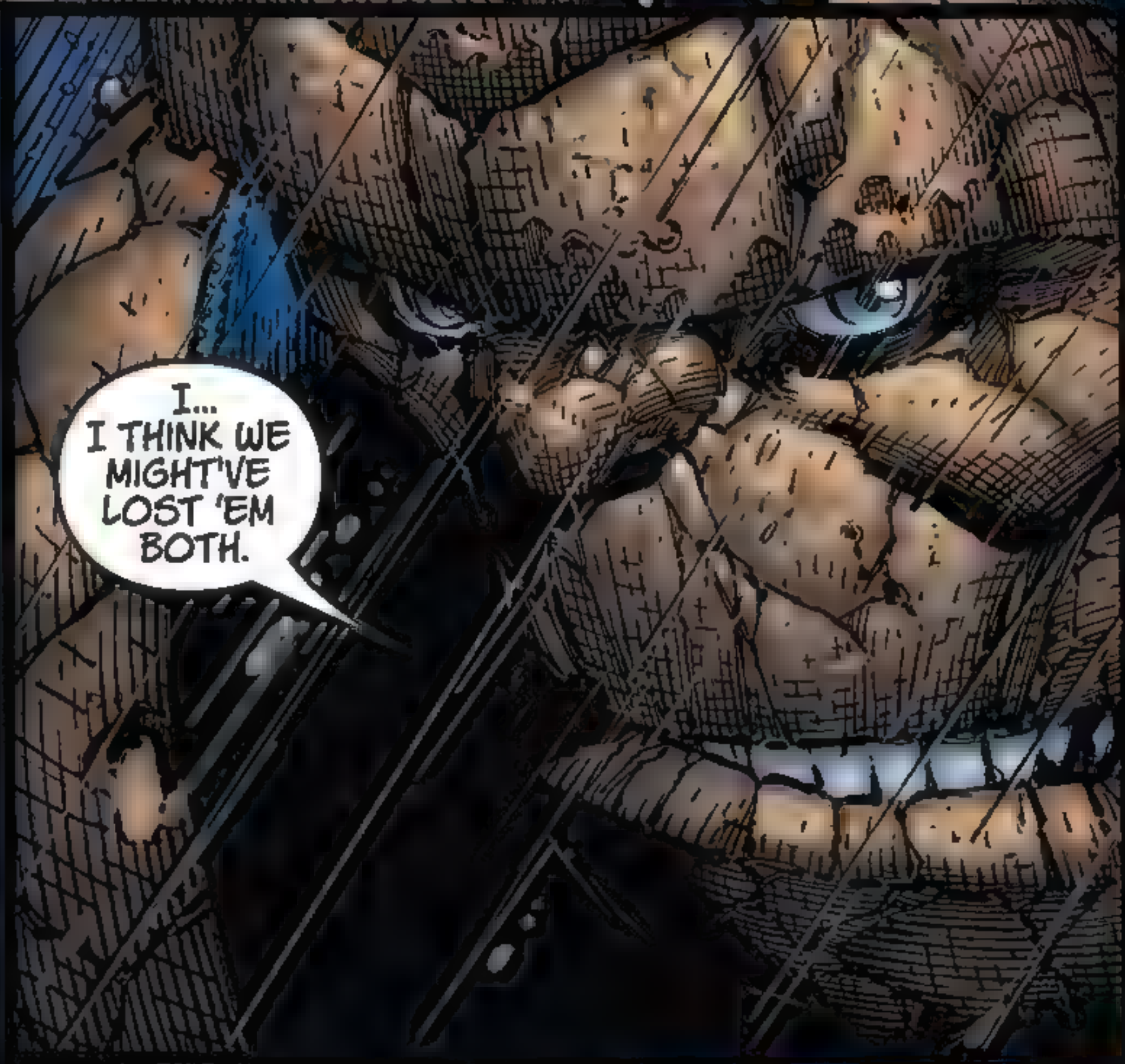
BUT  
SHE WON'T  
WAKE UP NOW...  
SHE'S BARELY  
BREATHING.

YOU'VE GOT  
TO GET HER TO  
HELP, BEN.

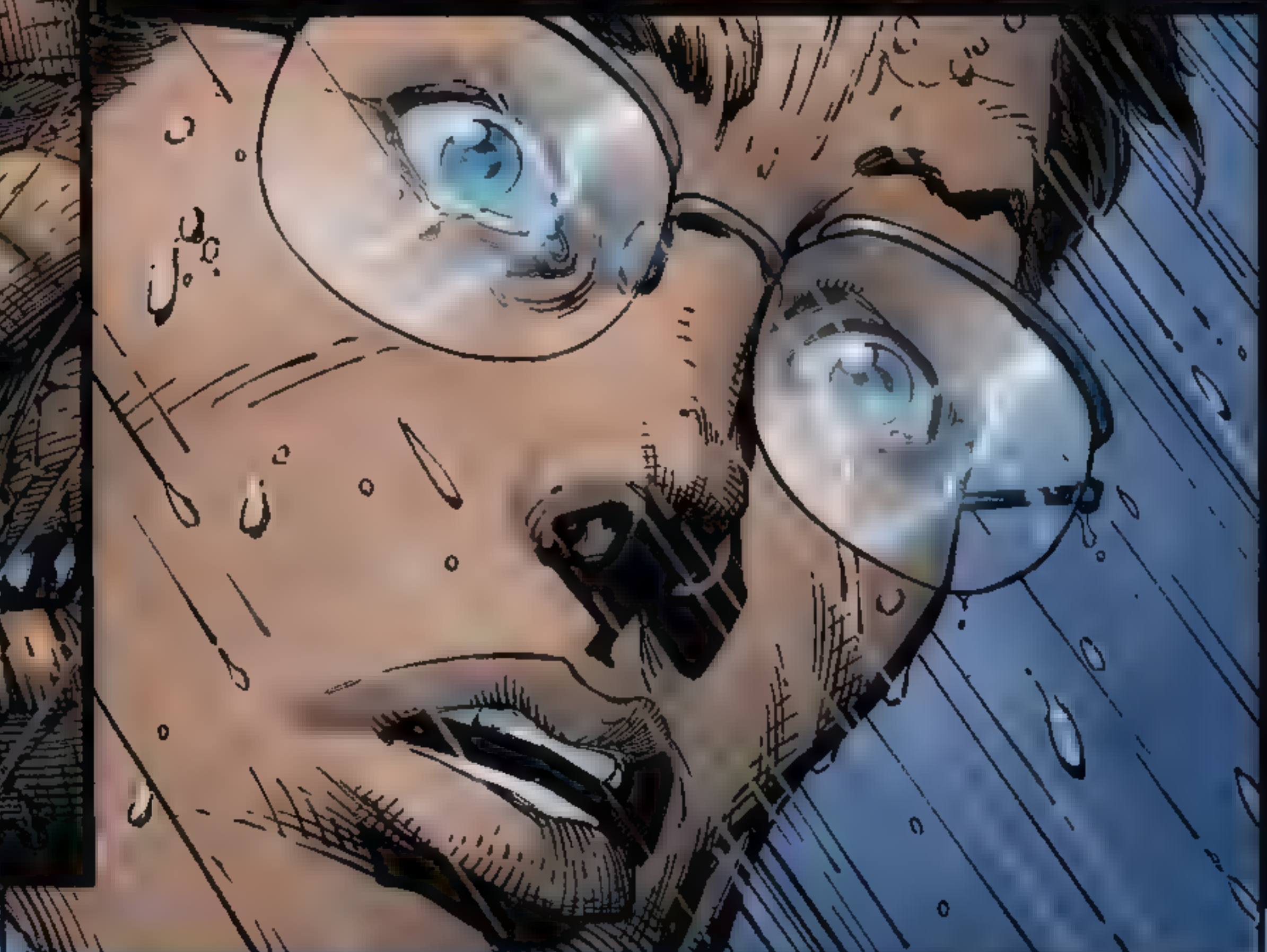


WHERE? LOOK  
AROUND YOU, REED.  
THERE'S NOTHING  
BUT *DEAD* --

-- THEN  
GET JOHNNY  
OR DR. STORM  
TO DO IT!



I...  
I THINK WE  
MIGHT'VE  
LOST 'EM  
BOTH.

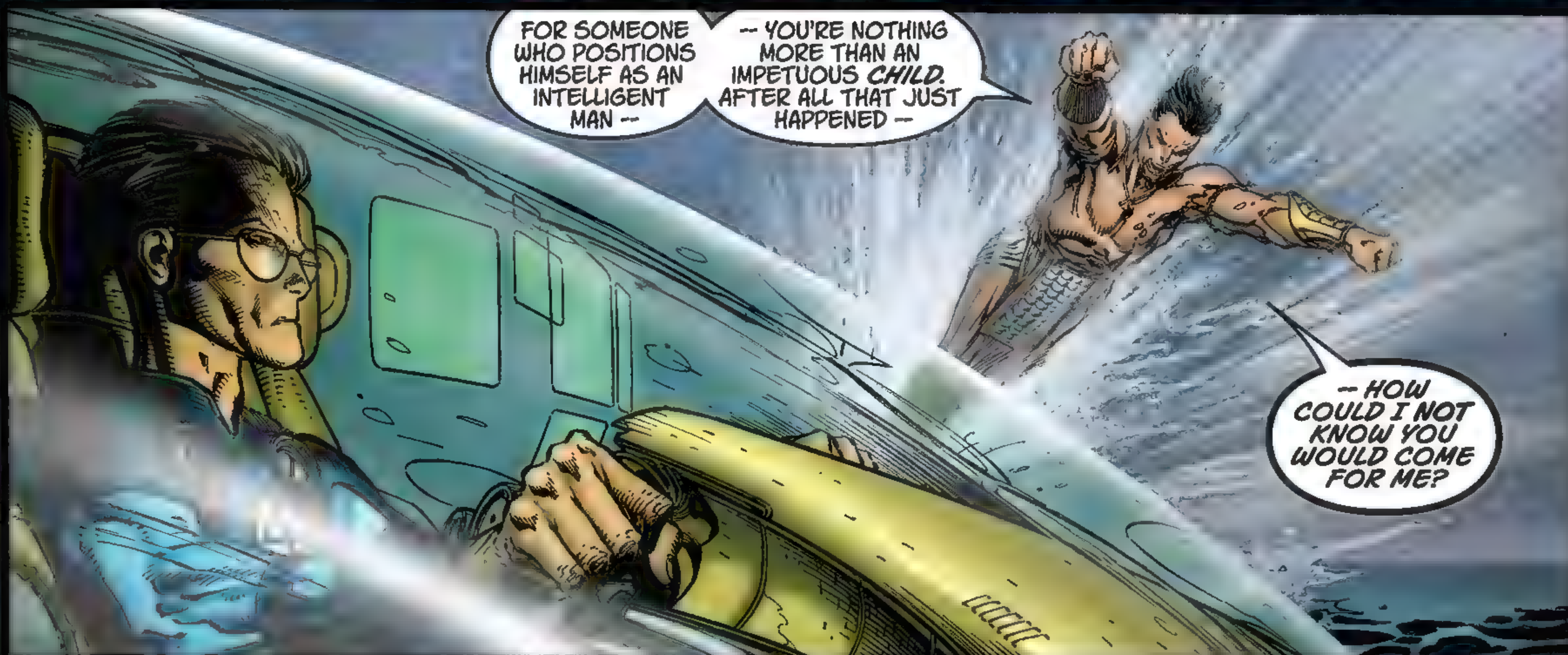
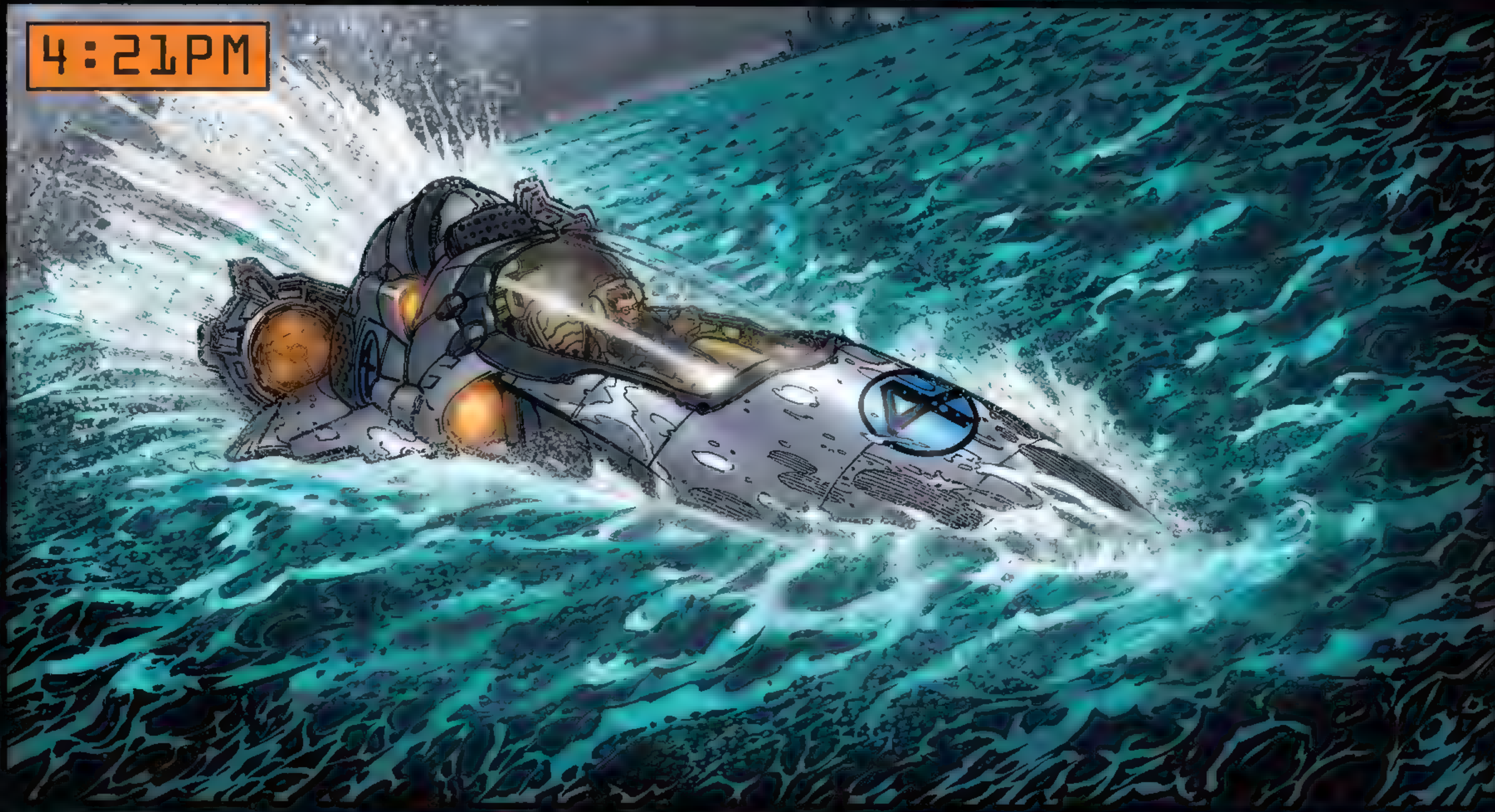


WHERE YOU  
GOIN', REED?

REED!



4:21PM



FOR SOMEONE WHO POSITIONS HIMSELF AS AN INTELLIGENT MAN --

-- YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN AN IMPETUOUS *CHILD*. AFTER ALL THAT JUST HAPPENED --

-- HOW COULD I NOT KNOW YOU WOULD COME FOR ME?



YOU DID IT. YOU KILLED THEM ALL!

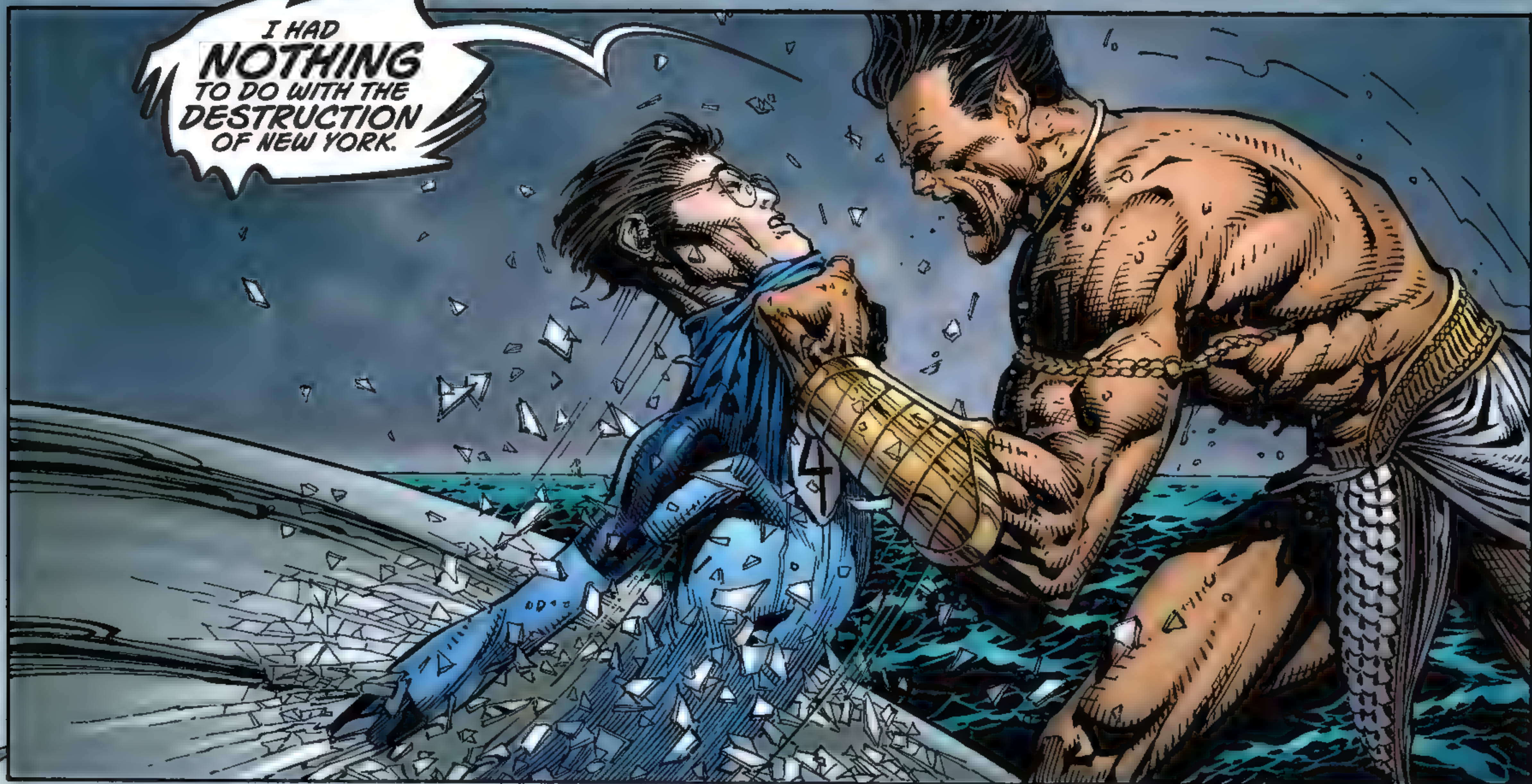
MY SUE...



I COULD CARE LESS WHAT YOU THINK.



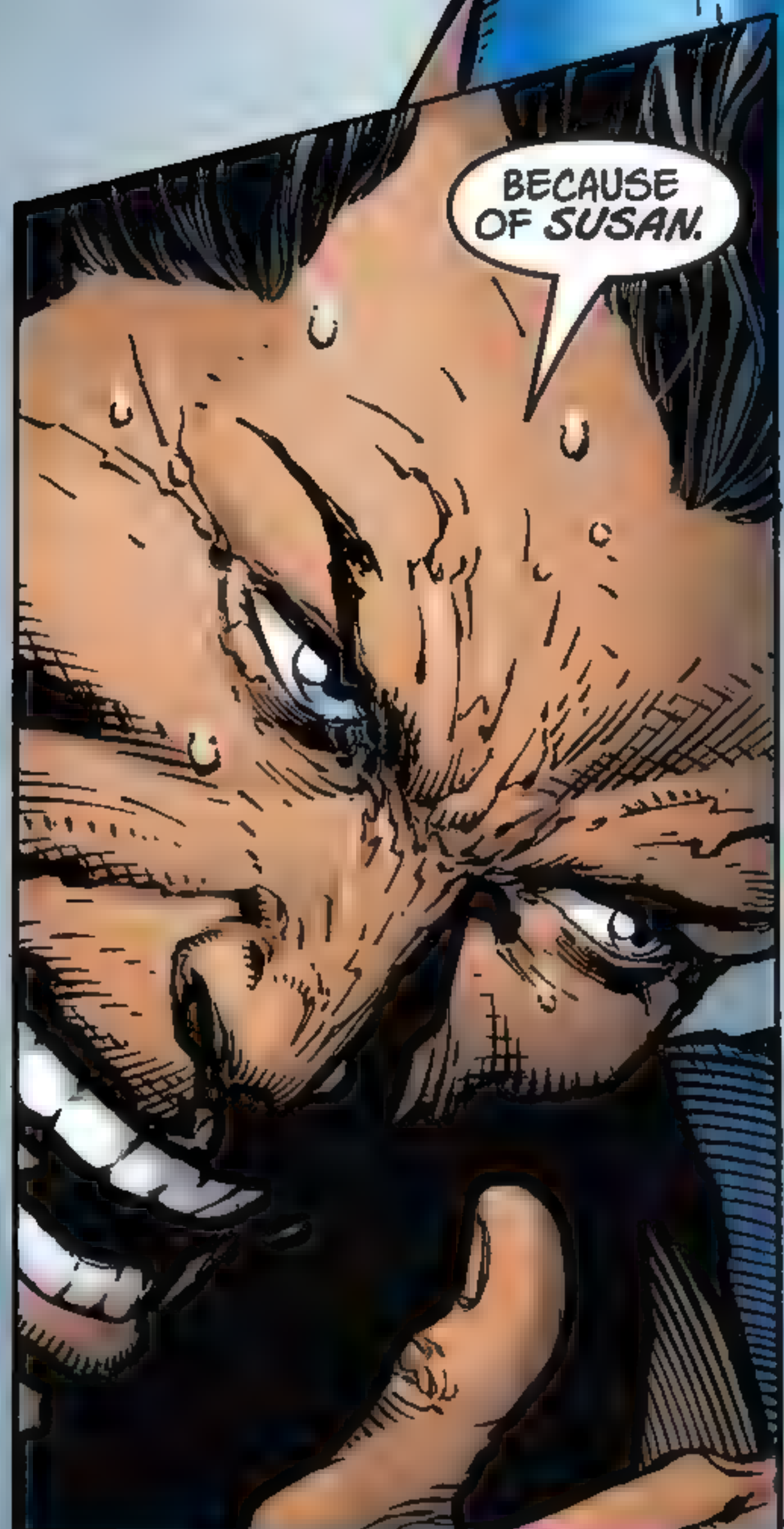
I HAD  
**NOTHING**  
TO DO WITH THE  
DESTRUCTION  
OF NEW YORK.



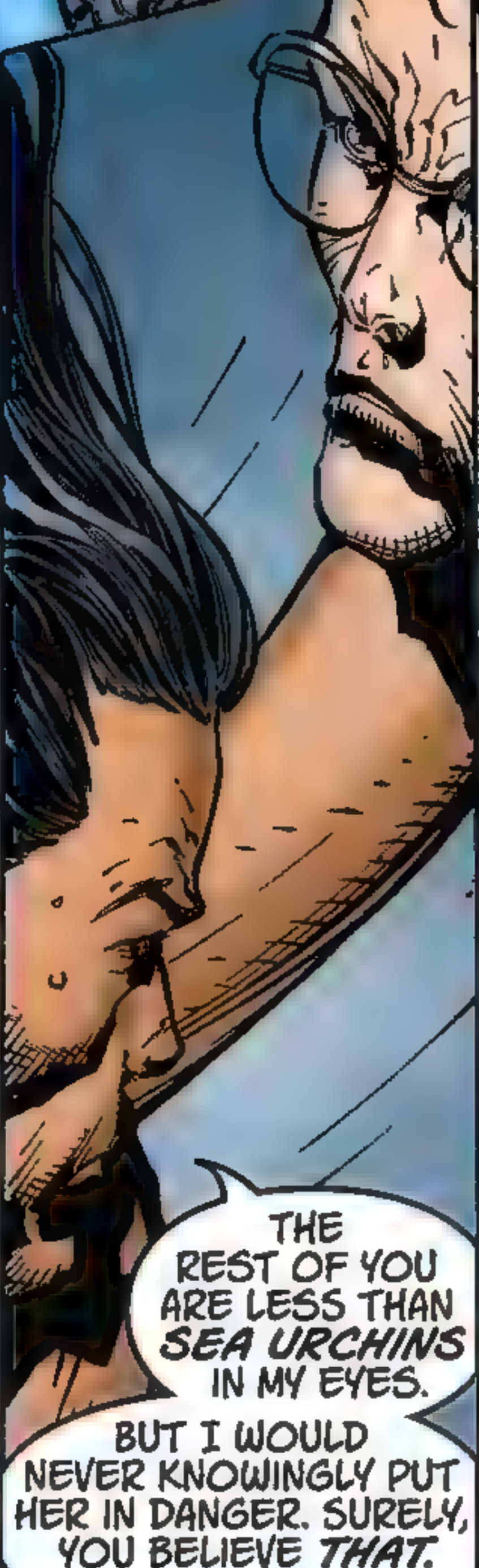
WHY IN GOD'S  
NAME WOULD  
I BELIEVE YOU,  
**NAMOR?**



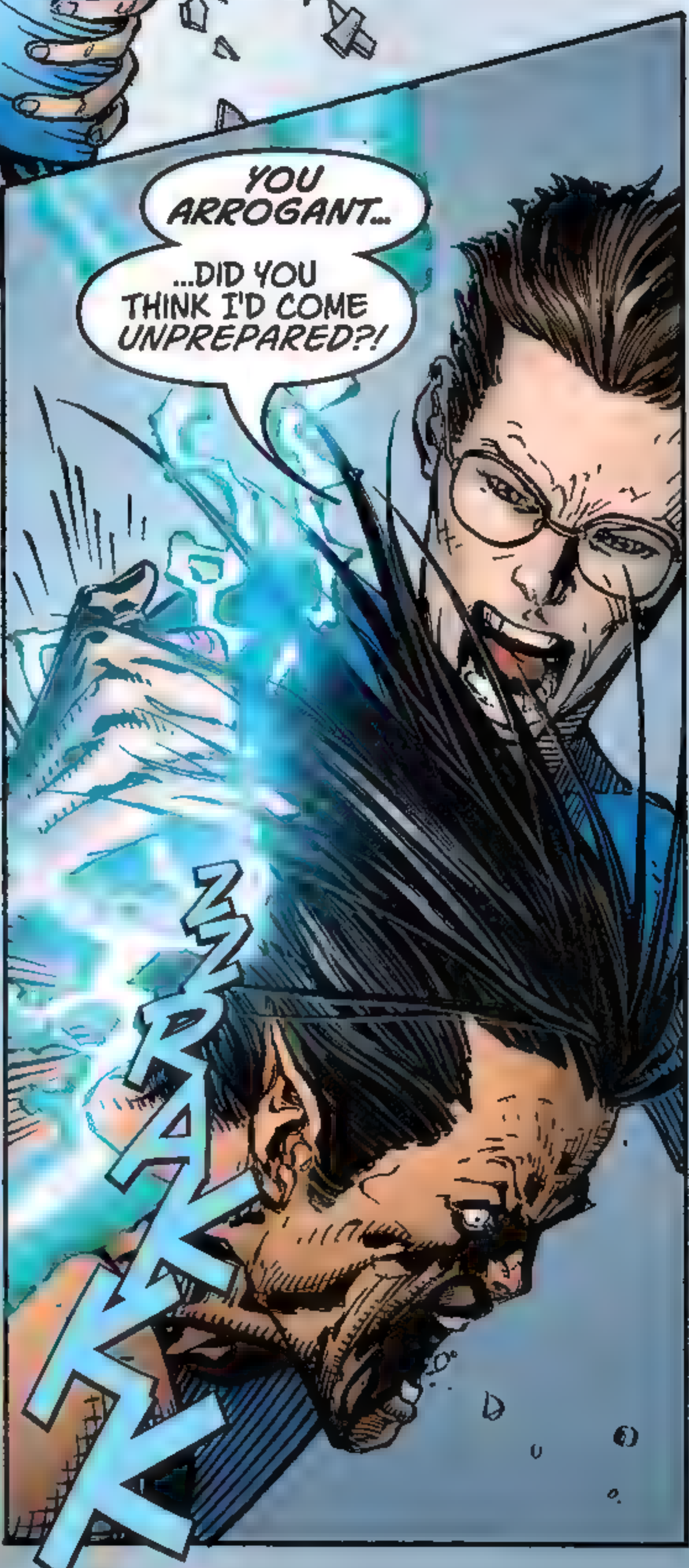
BECAUSE  
OF **SUSAN**.



**YOU**  
ARROGANT...  
...DID YOU  
THINK I'D COME  
UNPREPARED?!



THE  
REST OF YOU  
ARE LESS THAN  
**SEA URCHINS**  
IN MY EYES.  
BUT I WOULD  
NEVER KNOWINGLY PUT  
HER IN DANGER. SURELY,  
YOU BELIEVE **THAT**.



BUT...  
IF IT WASN'T  
YOU...

**WHOP?**  
AND WHY?





LATVERIA  
VICTOR VON DAMME'S CASTLE  
DOCTOR DOOM THAT NIGHT  
12:31AM. EASTERN EUROPEAN TIME.

WHERE  
THE DEVIL IS  
EVERYONE?

DOCTOR  
MARY STORM!

**BORIS!**

THIS IS  
IMPOSSIBLE.







YAAARRGGH!

XAVIER'S ACADEMY.  
WESTCHESTER,  
NEW YORK.  
OUTSIDE THE CITY.  
5:02 PM. TUESDAY.

PROFESSOR!

WHAT'S  
HAPPENED --  
I HEARD YOU  
SCREAM --

-- NO @##%,  
CYCLOPS.  
EVERYBODY IN  
THE TRI-STATE  
AREA HEARD  
HIM.

KURT... HANK...  
ALISON...

WHAT  
ABOUT  
THEM?

THEY'RE  
GONE...  
MILLIONS...  
DEAD...

WHAT DO  
YOU MEAN,  
DEAD?!

SOMETHING...  
TERRIBLE HAS  
HAPPENED.

SOMETHING.  
WHAT THING?

HAVE  
TO TELL  
THEM...

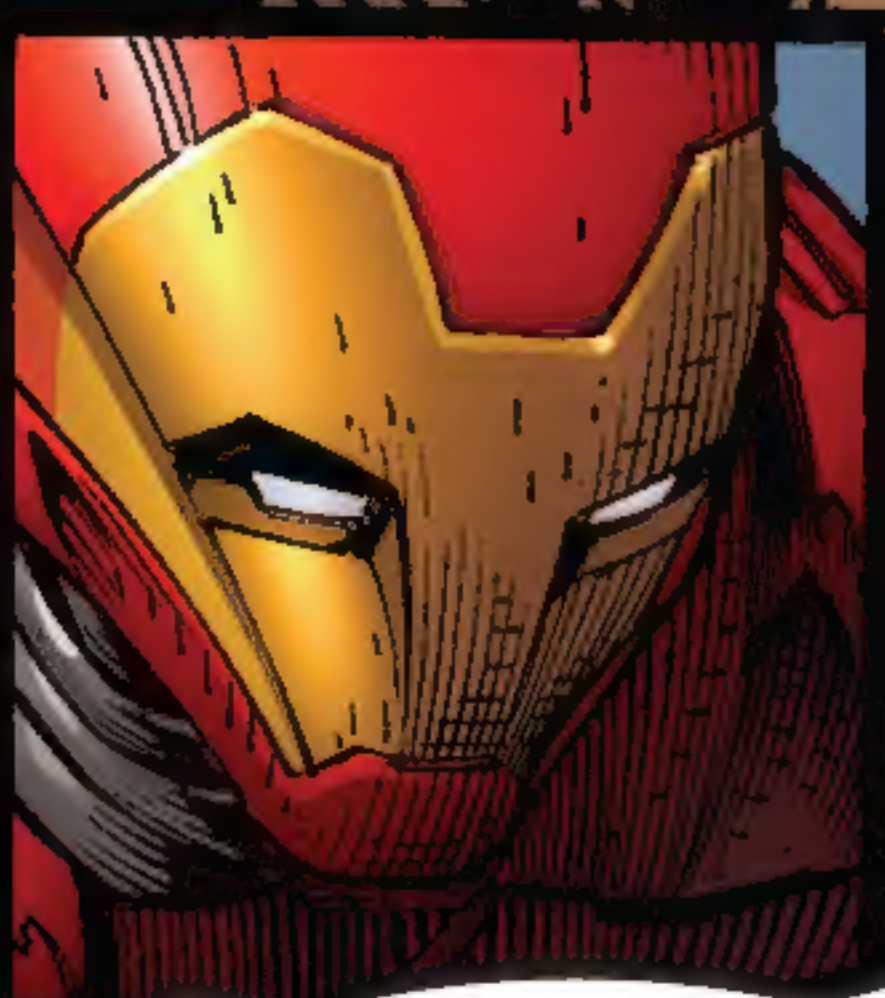
WARN  
THEM...



THIS IS  
CHARLES XAVIER.  
I KNOW WHAT HAS  
TRANSPIRED.



EVEN  
MORE TERRIBLE...  
I KNOW HOW  
AND WHY...



AND HE  
WILL NOT STOP  
UNTIL IT IS WORSE...  
FAR WORSE.

WE NEED  
TO BAND TOGETHER.  
PUT ANY DIFFERENCES  
ASIDE FOR THE BATTLE  
TO COME.



I'M SENDING  
YOU MY X-MEN...  
WHAT'S LEFT  
OF THEM.



THEY WILL  
HAVE THE COORDINATES,  
BUT HERE IS A MENTAL  
IMAGE OF WHERE YOU  
MUST GO.

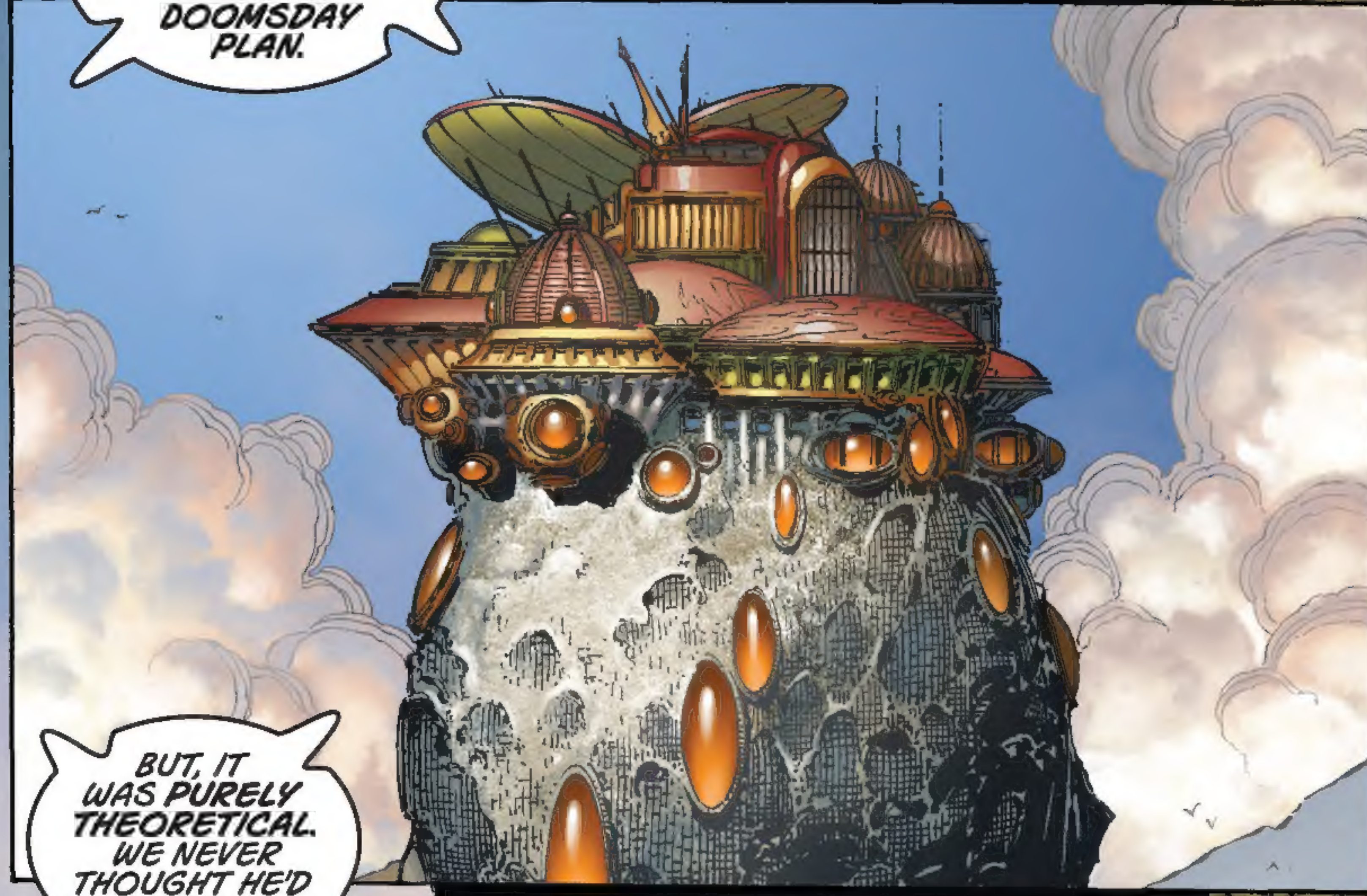




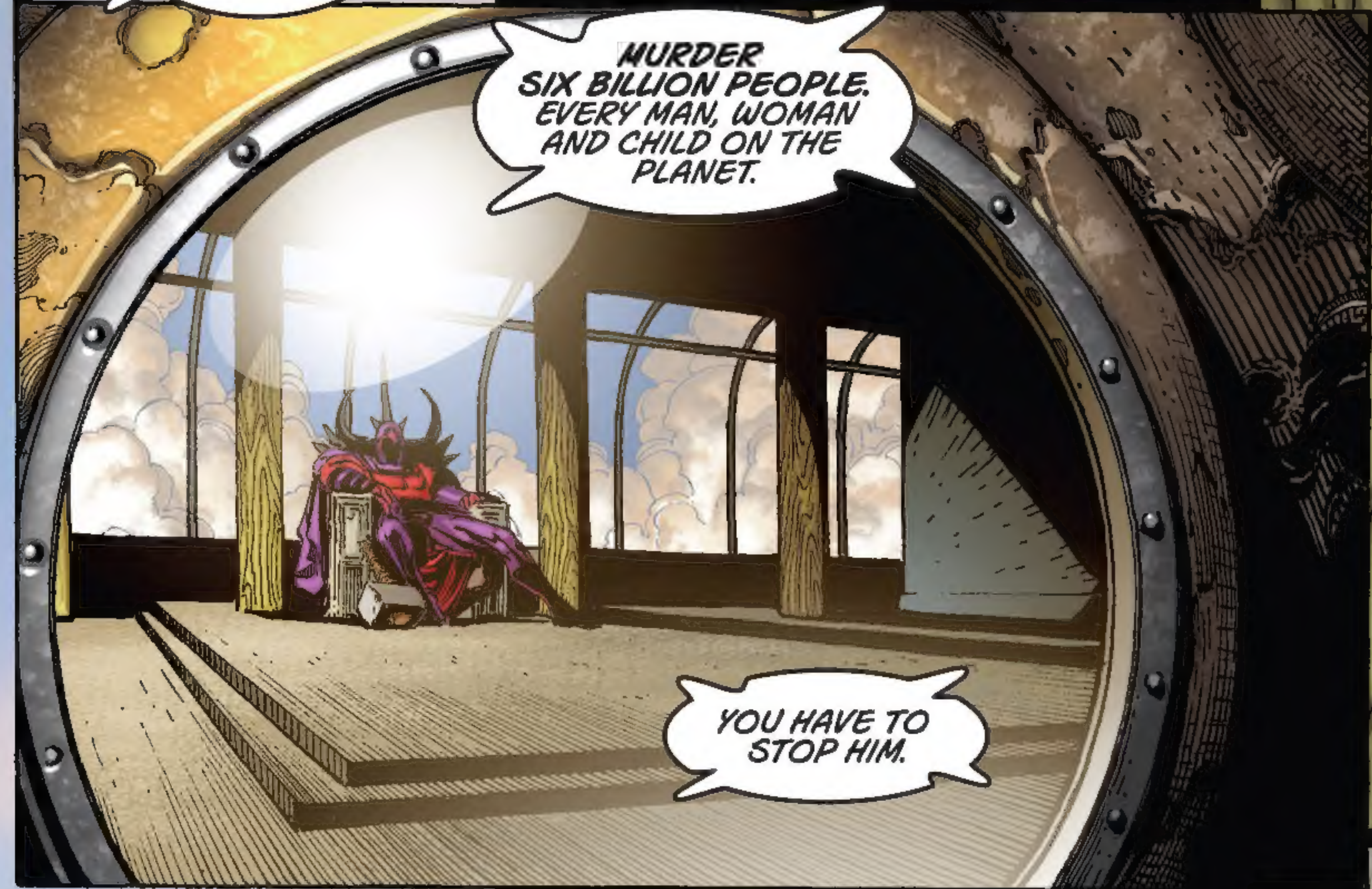
THIS IS WHERE YOU WILL FIND HIM.

HE DOES NOT FEAR YOUR ARRIVAL.

WHAT HE'S DONE... THIS COURSE OF ACTION... HE'S TOLD ME IN THE PAST. A KIND OF DOOMSDAY PLAN.



BUT, IT WAS PURELY THEORETICAL. WE NEVER THOUGHT HE'D ACT ON IT.



MURDER SIX BILLION PEOPLE. EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD ON THE PLANET.

YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM.



YOU HAVE TO STOP MAGNETO.

YES. BRING THEM, CHARLES.

BRING EVERYONE. SO I CAN TELL THEM MYSELF.

FOR WHAT THEY'VE DONE...

THEY WILL HAVE TO PAY THE ULTIMATE PRICE!

NEXT: IT GETS WORSE





EMPIRE